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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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Section 552

Section 552a

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☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (d)(5)

☐ (b)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☐ (j)(2)

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- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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Routing Slip  
FD-4 (Rev. 6-14-56)

Date 11/23/58

To

☒ Director

Att. ~~FOREIGN~~ LIAISON

FILE #

☐ SAC

Title

☐ ASAC

☐ Supv.

☐ Agent

☐ SE

☐ CC

☐ Steno

☐ Clerk

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign ..... Reassign .....

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Open Case

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Recharge serials

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Return serials

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Send Serials

to

☐ Submit new charge-out

☐ Submit report by

☐ Type

EMBASSY WEEKA # 48, 11/25/58

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-17-99 BY 60267NLS/BCE/AR

42049

60267NLS/BCE/AR

SAC

LEGAT

☐ See reverse side

Office HAVANA

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☒ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): Copies of these documents were disclosed to you subsequent to the stipulation of settlement and dismissal agreement concerning Mark A. Allen v. Federal Bureau of Investigation et al., C.D.C. April 7, 1994 Civil Action No. 81-1206 JLG.

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (66-6200-65)

DATE: December 1, 1958

FROM : Legat, Havana (109-54)

38580

SUBJECT: FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - CUBA

ReBulet May 7, 1956, to Legat, Paris, entitled "ESPIONAGE AND FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE MATTERS" (Bufile 66-6200-65). Also reference is made to Legat, Havana, letter dated May 28, 1958.

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

During the past six months the political fortunes of President FULGENCIO BATISTA y ZALDIVAR have deteriorated. Rebel groups of which the principal one is led by FIDEL CASTRO RUZ now almost completely dominate the eastern province of Cuba, namely, Oriente, and are forces to contend with in the provinces of Camaguey and Las Villas. The Cuban Army has had very little success in any skirmishes in which it has engaged the rebel forces.

Although elections were held on November 3, 1958, the Cuban people were apathetic toward exercising their right to vote and the elections themselves were boycotted by rebel groups and rebel sympathizers. The BATISTA backed presidential candidate, RIVERO AGUERO, was an easy winner in the elections which were claimed to be fraudulent.

No one expects that the holding of such elections and the selection of RIVIRO AGUERO as president will lead to any solution of the Cuban problem.

Although the rebels have been unable to take and hold any major city in Cuba, they have been able to almost completely disrupt all communications in the provinces of Camaguey and Oriente. This complete disruption of communication lines has led to a rapid deterioration of the economic condition in Cuba. The main financial backbone of Cuban economy is sugar and this crop is mostly harvested in the provinces of Camaguey and Oriente. Due to lack of transportation and rebel control of these areas, there is little hope that the coming sugar crop will be able to be fully harvested.

2 - Bureau  
1 - Havana  
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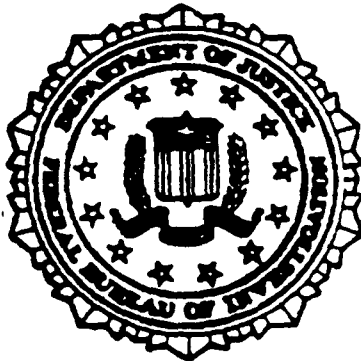
In the winter and spring of 1958 there were many bombings and acts of terrorism in the Havana area by supposedly rebel sympathizers. These ceased when the Cuban police authorities took very drastic measures of inflicting death on sympathizers whom they had in their possession. Also public opinion did not support such rebel activities inasmuch as often innocent persons were killed.

#### ATTITUDE OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES

The present Government of Cuba is pro-United States in its sympathies and outspokenly anti-Communist. It will be recalled that it was when BATISTA assumed power in March, 1952, by a coup d'etat that Cuba broke diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. On the international scene the Cuban Government backs the anti-Communist policies of the United States. The Cuban people are essentially pro-American mainly because of the help which it received from the United States in securing its independence from Spain and also because of close business ties with the United States

The Cuban Government, however, does complain concerning the "nonintervention" policies of the United States, stating that through such policies it is unable to secure the arms it needs to put down the rebel insurrection.

# ***FILE DESCRIPTION***



**SUBJECT**

Cuba 1958-1964

**FILE NO.**

109-HQ-12-210

**VOLUME NO.**

9

109-12-210-357

**CHANGED TO**

105-74886-2

*firm*  
**DEC 18 1958**

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#392226

*60267MS/RK*  
*4-20-99*

Routing Slip  
FD-4 (Rev. 6-14-56)

Date 12/4/58

To

☒ Director

FILE #

Att. FOREIGN LIAISON DESK

☐ SAC

Title

☐ ASAC

☐ Supv.

☐ Agent

☐ SE

☐ CC

☐ Steno

☐ Clerk

ACTION DESKED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign ..... Reassign .....

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline .....

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Open Case

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Recharge serials

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Return serials

☐ Search and ret

☐ See me

☐ Send Serials .....

to

☐ Submit new charge-out

☐ Submit report by .....

☐ Type

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DATE 3-18-99 BY 60267MS/BCE/PAK

9-20-99

60267MS/BCE/PAK

EMBASSY WEEKA # 49 12/2/58

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See reverse side

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Non-recorded, document dated 11-26-58

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Section 552a

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| _____                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(D)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(2) |
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Routing Slip  
FD-4 (Rev. 6-14-56)

Date 12/11/58

To

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Att. FOREIGN LIAISON

FILE #

☐ SAC

Title

☐ ASAC

☐ Supv.

☐ Agent

☐ SE

☐ CC

☐ Steno

☐ Clerk

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DATE 3-18-99 BY 60267NLS/BJE/ML

9-20-99

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign ..... Reassign .....

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline .....

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☐ Submit report by .....

☐ Type 10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-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Section 552

Section 552a

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

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Section 552

Section 552a

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Section 552

Section 552a

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- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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Section 552

Section 552a

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Section 552

Section 552a

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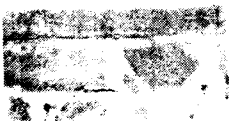
- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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ENCLOSURE  
100-12-210



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Routing Slip  
FD-4 (Rev. 6-14-56)

Date 12/18/58

To

☒ Director

FILE #

Att. Foreign Liaison

☐ SAC

Title

☐ ASAC

☐ Supv.

☐ Agent

☐ SE

☐ CC

☐ Steno

☐ Clerk

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign ..... Reassign .....

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline .....

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Open Case

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Recharge serials

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Return serials

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Send Serials .....

to

☐ Submit new charge-out

☐ Submit report by .....

☐ Type

Embassy Weeka No. 51 dated 12/16/58

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-18-99

BY 60260 JSC/ST

SAC

Havana

☐ See reverse side

Office

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LEGAL ATTACHE, HAVANA

December 20, 1958

DIRECTOR, FBI

HAVANA OFFICE  
ADMINISTRATIVE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-18-99 BY 60267MS/BJK/ST  
9-20-99 60267MS/BJK/ST

The United States Intelligence Board (USIB) at its December 16, 1958, meeting approved a special estimate on the developments in Cuba since mid-November, 1958. That estimate was as follows:

The position of the regime under President Fulgencio Batista has deteriorated more rapidly than was anticipated in previous estimates. The Cuban rebels now dominate Oriente Province and are increasingly active in three other provinces. Fidel Castro's choice for Provisional President, Dr. Manuel Lleo is now in Oriente, apparently for the purpose of setting up a provisional government. Batista's armed forces show increasing signs of demoralization. To meet the over-all situation, the Batista government has recently extended the suspension of constitutional guarantees and has declared a state of national emergency. Although plans are proceeding to inaugurate President-elect Rivero Aguero on February 24, 1959, neither Aguero nor Batista have taken any steps to resolve the present chaotic internal situation. There is considerable sentiment in Cuba, especially in business circles, for the establishment of a military junta to dispose of Batista and to head off Castro.

It is estimated that should high political or military leadership fail to take some drastic action against Castro and/or the removal of Batista, civil war would be likely to spread at an increasing rate. In this situation, it is possible that the Cuban army might turn against the Government by going over to the rebels as an organized unit. It is further estimated that should the demoralization of the army reach such a point that a military junta would be unable to control the situation or should Castro win the civil war, a prolonged period of disorder would ensue with consequent peril to American lives and property in Cuba.

During the USIB discussion of the above estimate, no evidence was presented, nor was there any indication that Castro is receiving any communist support.

NOTE: Above situation in Cuba is set forth in memo to Belmont dated 12-17-58 captioned, "DEVELOPMENTS IN CUBA SINCE MID-NOVEMBER, UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD."

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_ 1-109-480  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_ 1-62-90718  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_ 1-62-70441  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_ 1-109-12-210  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_ NLF:sa (10)  
Clayton \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

2 1959  
JAN 2 1959  
MAIL ROOM

NOT RECORDED  
145 DEC 30 1958

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

**Legal Attache, Havana**

In line of the above situation, you should review thoroughly the operations of your office and recheck your procedures to make sure that all possible steps have been taken to insure the safety of your personnel and your office, as well as to protect Bureau operations and the use of established informants. You should continue to avoid having personnel of your office go into Oriente Province where the present disturbances are centered, and if those disturbances should spread to other areas, you should make sure that your personnel do not go to those areas.

You should keep the Bureau advised of pertinent developments in the political and revolutionary situations in Cuba which might affect the operations of your office.

DECODED COPY

SECRET

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Airgram

☒ Cablegram

DECODE OF CODED CABLE NUMBER 567 DATED DECEMBER 27, 1958 AT HAVANA, CUBA. RECEIVED VIA WESTERN UNION.

CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES, IS - CUBA. REBELS HAVE INFILTRATED LAS VILLAS PROVINCE AND HAVE MET NO RESISTANCE FROM ARMY FORCES. THEY NOW HAVE ALMOST COMPLETE DOMINATION OF HALF OF CUBA. THEY HOLD NO IMPORTANT CITIES AS HAVE NO AIR POWER TO PROTECT THEMSELVES IN OPEN. GOVERNMENT TROOPS REPORTEDLY HAVE NO DESIRE TO FIGHT. ECONOMIC SITUATION RAPIDLY DETERIORATING. HAVANA VERY QUIET BUT CUBANS CLAIM BATISTA GOVERNMENT WILL SOON FALL AS HE HAS LOST CONTROL OF SITUATION. THIS OFFICE INFORMED BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THAT HIS FATHER, [REDACTED], WOULD LIKE TO GO TO UNITED STATES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. [REDACTED] KNOWN TO BE NOT SERIOUSLY ILL. [REDACTED] ALSO STATED HE WAS SENDING HIS FAMILY TO UNITED STATES FOR VACATION. ABOVE FURNISHED ALL INTERESTED EMBASSY OFFICIALS.

(S) JAMES T. HAVERTY

consulting

RECEIVED: 12-27-58

7:09 PM HL

CLASSIFIED BY 60210/MS/SEC/BRK  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

SECRET

60 JAN 2 1959

149-12-210  
NOT RECORDED  
145 DEC 31 1958

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: January 1, 1959

FROM :

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: CUBAN SITUATION

At 7:33 a.m., January 1, 1959, I received a telephone call from James F. Greene, Deputy Assistant Director, Border Patrol, IANS, who stated that he was attempting to locate the Attorney General for [REDACTED] and wanted to know the night number where he could be reached. After taking down his number, I called Mr. Greene back, and advised him (per the instruction folder) to try the Department switchboard, and failing that, to call [REDACTED] administrative supervisor for the Department, at [REDACTED]

RECOMMENDATION: File.

109-12-210

JEM:<sup>sal</sup>sal (4)

1 - Mr. Belmont  
 1 - [REDACTED]  
 1 - [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-18-99 BY 60267US/RCE/ST  
 12099 60X7MS/BE/OK

REC-65

JAN 2 1959

68 JAN 5 1959

NAT. INT. SEC.



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Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES

GOVERNMENT

~~SECRET~~

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: December 24, 1958

FROM : Mr. R. R. Roach

CLASSIFIED BY 60267 NIS/KEKES  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1

3-18-99

SUBJECT: CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Nease	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

ACTION:

We will be on the alert regarding any significant developments relating to the captioned situation and will continue to disseminate to interested agencies in an expeditious manner. Attached is cable to Legal Attache, Havana, emphasizing necessity to keep Bureau promptly advised regarding this situation.

Enclosure  
SJP:bjt  
(9)

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
- 1 - [REDACTED]
- 1 - [REDACTED]
- 1 - Foreign Liaison Unit
- 1 - Liaison Section
- 1 - [REDACTED] (S)(u)

TO DEC 31 1958

109-480

~~SECRET~~

109-12-210

UNRECORDED - FILED IN

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

TO : Director, FBI  
FROM : Legal Attache, Havana (66-101)  
SUBJECT: INTELLIGENCE SURVEY - CUBA

DATE: December 1958

03586

Submitted herewith are an original and six copies of a memorandum captioned as above.

All information contained in this memorandum is already known to appropriate Embassy officials, [redacted] It is to be noted that in many instances the personal opinions of the writer have been set forth, based on information received from sources of this office.

No dissemination of the memorandum as such has been made locally. It is classified "Confidential" inasmuch as it reflects information obtained from confidential sources of this office in Cuba.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 7)  
1 - Havana  
JTH/DJB:lg/meg  
(3)

DEC-23

107-12-210-371

EX-101

DEC 12 2 03 PM '58

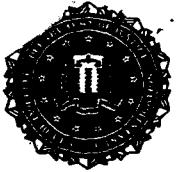
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66 JAN 1 1959

6027MS/EE/PA 92079

CLASSIFIED BY 6027MS/EE/PA

3-78-49



United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

December 15, 1958

INTELLIGENCE SURVEY - CUBA

SYNOPSIS

Economic situation rapidly deteriorating. Transportation and communication facilities to provinces of Oriente and Camaguey completely disrupted and business in these provinces almost at standstill. Havana luxury hotels standing idle because of lack of tourists. Economic chaos will result if rebels prohibit harvesting of sugar crop in Oriente and Camaguey.

On November 17, 1958, seven police in Havana suburb killed by presumably rebel sympathizers as they were leaving precinct station house after tour of duty.

President-elect ANDRES RIVERO AGUERO in press conference has not come forth with any solution to Cuban crisis.

On November 27, 1958, number of Army officers detained by Military authorities on charge of plotting overthrow of government. A few days later, General Martin DIAZ TAMAYO relieved of his duties. He was one of Cuba's leading military men and one who had respect of people.

Eight top hoodlums reside or have gambling interests in Havana. One of leading ones is SANTO TRAFFICANTE. Business in gambling casinos poor because of slow tourist season.

[REDACTED] Cuban  
Army Military Intelligence Service, reportedly one of Cuban officials receiving graft.

b7C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

9-20-99  
60767 MS/MS/MS  
DECLASSIFIED BY 60767 MS/MS/MS  
ON 3-18-99

ENCLOSURE

100-12-110-371

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United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

December 15, 1958

INTELLIGENCE SURVEY - CUBA

DETERIORATION OF ECONOMIC SITUATION

The economic situation in Cuba has been deteriorating rapidly. Rebel domination over the Provinces of Oriente and Camaguey has caused almost the cessation of business operation in these two of Cuba's six provinces. In Havana itself the economic pinch is beginning to be felt. New luxury hotels erected in the last two years to house a hoped-for tourist influx are standing virtually empty. Some, because of the heavy losses being suffered, are attempting to have the Cuban Government subsidize their operations. Other businesses which have operations in outlying provinces have been badly hurt because of the lack of communications and transportation facilities. Cubana Airlines, which has lost three of its large planes as a result of rebel abductions is flying its established routes with hardly any passengers. Insurance rates on almost all commodities are skyrocketing.

The big question mark on the economic front is the sugar crop. Ordinarily this crop, 70 per cent of which is in the Provinces of Oriente and Camaguey, is harvested during the months of December - February. If the crop is not harvested, Cuba is in for almost certain economic chaos inasmuch as sugar

DECLASSIFIED BY 60267MS/BCE/PAK

ON 3-18-99

9-20-99

- ENCLOSURE

3-11

accounts for almost 75 per cent of Cuba's national income. Even if the rebels permit this crop to be harvested, there is still the problem of getting it from the sugar refineries to the market. This will be most difficult as transportation in the sugar producing provinces has been severely disrupted by rebel action.

### TERRORISTIC ACTIVITY

On the evening of November 17, 1958, a group of policemen were killed by unknown assassins in a residential suburb of Havana. This attack took place when the police were leaving a local precinct station after completing their tour of duty. Seven of the police reportedly were killed. That evening the police retaliated by killing about 13 persons throughout the city who were presumably rebel sympathizers. Reportedly police, in order to stop rebel terroristic tactics, let it be known that they will kill rebel sympathizers whom they have in custody in retaliation for any rebel atrocities. From a police source it was learned that the Government officials had arrested two juveniles who confessed that they had taken part in the attack on the above-mentioned policemen. The fate of these juveniles is not known.

### POLITICAL SCENE

President-elect ANDRES RIVERO AGUERO in a press conference announced that he would try to bring peace to the country, but he set forth no concrete plans for achieving a solution to



December 15, 1958

the crisis in Cuba. RIVERO AGUERO claimed that he counted on BATISTA and the armed forces as his best allies. He further remarked that he would not travel abroad before assuming office.

From his statements it appears that the Cuban people could not look to him for any solution to the present unrest in the country, especially so since all active rebel groups disown his election, claiming it was fraudulent.

On December 6, 1958, the Cuban Government extended by decree the suspension of constitutional guarantees, and this decree was ratified by the Cuban Congress on December 9, 1958.

#### MILITARY ACTIVITY

On November 27, 1958, the Cuban Army Military Intelligence Service (SIM) detained a number of Army officers ranging in grade from Lieutenant Colonel to Lieutenant. They were arrested on charges of fomenting a plot to overthrow the present Government of FULGENCIO BATISTA. BATISTA, in Government-controlled propaganda organs, claimed that the plot was of no significance and that only very minor Army officers were involved. Shortly after the announcement of this plot by Cuban officials, General MARTIN DIAZ TAMAYO, one of the leading military figures in Cuba, was relieved of his duties. Official press releases stated that DIAZ TAMAYO had voluntarily retired because of ill health. It

December 15, 1958

is to be noted that DIAZ TAMAYO has been one of the Army Generals who has always had the respect of the average Cuban citizen and who has never been linked with any atrocities committed by the Batista regime. His name has also been mentioned on several occasions as one who might be a member of a military junta which would take over ruling Cuba if Batista were deposed.

On the military revolutionary front there was much rumor after the date of the Presidential elections that the Cuban Government would launch an all-out offensive against the rebel forces. No such action, however, has taken place, and the rebels continue to roam the countryside in the Eastern Provinces while Army forces remain in their garrisons.

#### CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

##### 1. TOP HOODLUMS

Information received from informants indicate that an additional top hoodlum, [REDACTED] Newark Top Hoodlum, has purchased an interest in the gambling casino in the Hotel Nacional. This increases to eight the number of top hoodlums known to reside or have extensive interests in gambling activities in Havana. b7C

##### 2. GAMBLING

In general, attendance at the gambling casinos in which Americans have interests in Havana continues to be poor principally because of the drastic affect which the disturbed political situation has had on tourist activities. Sources indicate that many gamblers and hoodlums are taking advantage of the rather slow

December 15, 1958

tourist season by purchasing interests in gambling operations in Havana at reduced rates. The gambling casinos in Havana which are considered by sources to be the principal "hang-outs" for hoodlums, thieves and narcotics peddlers are the Sans Souci Night Club, the Hotel Capri and Hotel Deauville, which are owned in whole or in part by ~~SANTO~~ ~~TRAFFICANTE~~, Miami Top Hoodlum, and the Hotel Plaza which is [REDACTED] of TRAFFICANTE in the Sans Souci Night Club. In this regard, Boston Top Hoodlum, [REDACTED] is now reported to have purchased interests in five gambling casinos in Havana. Since the arrival of [REDACTED] on the scene, there has been a substantial increase in the number of lesser known New England gamblers and bookmakers. b7C

### 3. TAKE

The only two gambling casinos in Havana which are considered to be doing well at the present time are those in the Hotel Capri and Hotel Plaza. Both of these depend heavily on prostitutes to lure in customers during the early morning hours. Sources advised that recently a wealthy Cuban lost \$240,000 in one night's gambling at the Hotel Capri casino. This loss was reputed to have occurred in the "money game" in the Capri casino. Both [REDACTED] and WILLIAM GUSTO b7C BISCHOFF, Miami Top Hoodlum, are reported to have interests in this "money game."

December 15, 1958

4. POLICE TIE-UPS WITH ORGANIZED CRIME

Sources have informed that recently [REDACTED] the Cuban Army Military Intelligence Service (SIM) and [REDACTED] the Cuban National Police, [REDACTED] engaged in harassing tactics with the casino in the Hotel Plaza in an effort to obtain a "shake down." It is reported b7C that when the owners of the Hotel Plaza casino made arrangements to "pay off" various Cuban officials that they failed to take [REDACTED] into consideration. Sources have since indicated that a settlement has been made with [REDACTED]

On November 14, 1958, one [REDACTED] who is employed by SANTO TRAFFICANTE [REDACTED] the Hotel Comodoro gambling casino, was arrested by Cuban police in connection with the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was reported to be [REDACTED] TRAFFICANTE, it should be noted, has been identified as being in attendance at the meeting of hoodlums in Apalachin, New York. Reliable sources have b7C informed that subsequent to [REDACTED] pressure was brought upon witnesses, investigating officers and newspaper reporters, as well as the [REDACTED] to "forget about the whole thing." As an example, a Cuban newspaper reporter wrote an article intimating that [REDACTED] was linked with the MAFIA. Sources informed that this newspaper reporter was subsequently threatened with death if he did not "forget about the MAFIA and keep his mouth shut." A reliable police source has informed that the principal police officer who has taken an interest in this case on behalf of [REDACTED] is [REDACTED]

December 15, 1958

5. OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

There have been no new developments in this category during the past month.

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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

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109-HQ-12-210-371-Enclosure  
dated 12-15-58, pages 1-7

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Section 552

Section 552a

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Section 552a

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FD-4 (Rev. 6-14-56)

Date 12-29-58

To

☒ Director

FILE #

Att. ~~FOREIGN~~ LIAISON

☐ SAC

☐ ASAC

☐ Supv.

☐ Agent

☐ SE

☐ CC

☐ Steno

☐ Clerk

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign ..... Reassign .....

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline .....

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Open Case

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Recharge serials

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Return serials

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Send Serials .....

to .....

☐ Submit new charge-out

☐ Submit report by .....

☐ Type

Embassy Weeka No. 52 dated 12/23/58.

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Office

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Section 552

Section 552a

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Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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9-20-99

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Cablegram

Airgram

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RECEIVED VIA THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

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Routing S.  
FD-4 (Rev. 6-14-56)

Date 12/31/58

To

☒ Director

Att.

FOREIGN LIAISON

FILE #

☐ SAC

Title

☐ ASAC

☐ Supv.

☐ Agent

☐ SE

☐ CC

☐ Steno

☐ Clerk

ACTION REQUIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign ..... Reassign .....

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Open Case

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Recharge serials

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Return serials

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Send Serials

to

☐ Submit new charge-out

☐ Submit report by

☐ Type

Embassy Weeka No. 32 dated 12/30/58.

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470-99 60210/UB/BS/ES

SAC Legat.

Havana

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Office

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470-99

60267NLS/CE/ST  
60321 NLS/1802/PAK

At 3 a.m. AMU Teague called from Miami. He advised  
that General Haverly was unable to call out of Havana  
and the situation with Haverly would have to be initiated in  
Miami. Haverly reported that [redacted] a Cuban senator  
with a bad reputation and a reported communist background,  
departed from Havana at 3:30 a.m. in a P.T. boat accompanied by  
50 armed men headed for Key West. Teague advised Customs and  
INS notified and no additional information that these people are  
in the U.S. Haverly also reported to Teague that Castro disclaimed  
any responsibility for happenings making reference to the looting  
and damage caused. Several people have been killed, casinos and  
government official residences have been looted and there appeared  
to be no action by local police. There is no indication of any  
anti-American feeling and no damage to American property. Castro  
has indicated he will not accept General Canillo, the provisional  
president appointed by the junta, and that he would accept nothing  
but a complete surrender. Miami Cuban Consul General out of the  
city and Cuban affairs being handled by [redacted]

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184 JAN 5 1959

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1 OF INVESTIGATION  
DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
TELETYPE SECTION

1959

TELETYPE

URGENT 1-1-59 4-55 PM CST RAC

TO DIRECTOR FBI AND SAC MIAMI

FROM SAC NEW ORLEANS 1P

CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES, IS DASH CUBA. COMMERCIAL C DASH FORTYSIX PLANE, CUBAN REGISTRY, C U DASH T DASH SIX ZERO SEVEN LANDED SIX FORTY FIVE AM MOISANT AIRPORT NEW ORLEANS, WITH TWO CREW MEMBERS AND FIFTY FOUR PASSENGERS, MOSTLY CUBAN MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE MAJORITY OF THESE PROCESSED BY I AND N S AND PAROLED TO I AND N S OFFICES NEW ORLEANS, NEW YORK, MIAMI AND WEST PALM BEACH FLORIDA. SOME THIRTY YOUNG COLLEGE AGE PERSONS DEMONSTRATED AT MOISANT AIRPORT AFTER ARRIVAL AFOREMENTIONED PLANE BUT NO INCIDENTS REPORTED AND MATTER HANDLED BY LOUISIANA STATE POLICE. SAME CUBAN CRAFT DEPARTED NEW ORLEANS ABOUT ELEVEN THIRTY AM TODAY FOR WEST PALM BEACH FLORIDA WITH TEN PERSONS OF THE ORIGINAL FIFTY SIX PERSONS WHO ARRIVED AT MOISANT AIRPORT INCLUDING [REDACTED] OF FULGENCIO BATISTA, NAMELY [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] BELIEVED AGES TO BE SIX AND FOUR RESPECTIVELY. SAME PLANE REPORTEDLY LANDED AT GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI AIRPORT ABOUT ONE THIRTY PM TODAY ALLEGEDLY FOR REFUELING ENROUTE TO WEST PALM BEACH, FLA. NEW ORLEANS WILL FURNISH VIA AIRTEL FOR MIAMI NEW YORK, AND BUREAU IDENTITIES OF PASSENGERS OF CUBAN AIRCRAFT FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES.

END ACK PLS

WA 5-58 PM OK FBI WA JG

MM D 5 58 ON PM OK FBI MM LLS

GVCV

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184 JAN 6 1959

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 1 1959

60267 NLS/BCE/DK 9-24-99

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DECLASSIFY ON: 25A

TELETYPE

~~SECRET~~

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. W.C. Sullivan  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

URGENT 1-1-59 10-09 PM EST R L B

TO DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, NEW YORK AND JACKSONVILLE  
NEW YORK VIA WASHINGTON

FROM SAC, MIAMI 5 P

CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES, FPM DASH CUBA.

LEGAT, HAVANA, CONTACTED ON SCHEDULE SEVEN THIRTY PM  
AND ADVISED CASTRO FORCES HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OF  
COMMUNICATIONS IN CUBA INCLUDING THREE WESTERN PROVINCES  
AND CAPITAL CITY OF HAVANA. STATED COMMUNISTS TRIED  
TO GET TELEVISION AND RADIO TIME TODAY BUT CASTRO FORCES  
DENIED PERMISSION, INDICATING NO PRO COMMUNIST SYMPATHIES  
ON PART OF CASTRO. CASTRO FORCES PATROLLING STREETS  
HAVANA TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND GENERAL STRIKE STILL IN  
PROGRESS ON WIDESPREAD BASIS. STRIKE WILL BE CONTINUED UNTIL  
PRO BATISTA MILITARY JUNTA AGREES TO DESIGNATION OF MANUEL  
URRUTIA AS PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT. ORDERLY LOOTING CONTINUING  
OF HOMES OF BATISTA AIDES. NO PARTICULAR VIOLENCE OR  
BLOODSHED. SOME PARKING METERS BEING BURGLARIZED. ALL  
EMBASSY AND BUREAU PERSONNEL SAFE. NO PLANS TO EVACUATE.  
LEGAT SAID MANY TOURISTS, PROBABLY WELL OVER ONE THOUSAND,  
ARE NOW STRANDED IN HAVANA AND EMBASSY HAS ARRANGED THROUGH  
NAVY TO HAVE NAVY VESSEL COME TO HAVANA AND EVACUATE THESE  
TOURISTS. LEGAT STATED CAPRI HOTEL HAD VERY MINOR DAMAGE

END PAGE ONE

66 JAN 1 1959

~~SECRET~~

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109-40-12-210 Non-recorded document dated 1-1-59.

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(S) State  
1-2, DNI, OSI, INS, Customs, AAG-1S(0-6)  
HOL-Time 1-5-59

State,  
advised?  
Proposed?  
info  
info

~~SECRET~~

PAGE TWO

ONE WINDOW AND ONE DOOR BEING BROKEN. NO DAMAGE WHATSOEVER  
TO CAPRIO CASINO [REDACTED] ARRANGEMENTS  
MADE TO RECONTACT LEGAT AT ELEVEN PM. INS, WEST PALM BEACH,  
ADVISED AT APPROXIMATELY FIVE PM PILOT OF CUBAN AIR FORCE PLANE  
NINE THIRTEEN WITH TWO MEN ABOARD CHECKED INTO WEST PALM BEACH  
FOR LANDING INSTRUCTIONS, THEN CHANGED MIND AND ASKED FOR BEARING  
ON DAYTONA BEACH. JACKSONVILLE HANDLE, NOTING THAT FULGENCIO  
BATISTA WAS HOME AT DAYTONA. INS, WEST PALM BEACH, ADVISED b7C  
CUBAN AIR FORCE C FORTY SIX NUMBER SIX TEN LANDED THERE AT APPROXI-  
MATELY TEN AM AND CLEARED TO RETURN TO HAVANA, CUBA AT TWO FORTY  
PM. PILOT WAS CUBAN AIR FORCE [REDACTED] ACCOMPANIED  
BY CO PILOT AND ONE MECHANIC. PLANE CARRIED FORTYFOUR PASSENGERS,  
MOST NOTEWORTHY OF WHOM APPEAR TO BE AS FOLLOWS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
END PAGE TWO

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

PAGE THREE

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] REPORTEDLY  
ONE OF BATISTAS HATCHET MEN, WITH HIS WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] AT WEST PALM BEACH, WITH [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE CLOSE FRIEND OF FULGENCIO  
BATISTA AND HAD SOME SORT OF UNOFFICIAL CABINET STATUS.  
ALL OF ABOVE ARE STAYING AT PALM BEACH BILTMORE HOTEL, PALM  
BEACH, FLORIDA, WHERE THEY HAVE THIRTY ROOMS. INS HAS ADMITTED  
THEM AS VISITORS IF THEY HAD PROPER DOCUMENTS OR ON PAROLE IF NOT.  
END PAGE THREE

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

PAGE FOUR

INS, KEY WEST, FLA. ADVISED THIS EVENING THAT BATISTA-S YACHT MARTA III ARRIVED KEY WEST APPROXIMATELY TWO THIRTY PM TODAY. INS ADVISES THIS YACHT HAD ON BOARD [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CUBAN NAVY, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CUBAN NAVY, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CUBAN NAVY, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CUBAN NAVY, AND SEVERAL ADDITIONAL

CUBAN NAVY PERSONNEL AND CREW OF PRESIDENTIAL YACHT. ALL THESE b7C

PERSONS ARE BEING DETAINED ON BOARD YACHT AND YACHT BEING HELD UNDER

MARINE GUARDS AT USCG, KEY WEST. INS ALSO ADVISED THE MOTOR

VESSEL "OLO KUN II" ARRIVED KEY WEST CARRYING TWENTYSIX PERSONS

AMONG WHOM ARE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OTHER PERSONS ON BOARD WERE NOT IMPORTANT ACCORDING

TO INS AND WERE MERELY FLEEING. ALL THESE PERSONS

ARE ALSO BEING HELD BY INS AND ARE NOT BEING ALLOWED TO LEAVE BOAT.

END PAGE FOUR

~~SECRET~~

PAGE FIVE

~~SECRET~~

[AT SEVEN FIFTYFIVE PM, INS, MIAMI, ADVISED THAT CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS HAD JUST BEEN INTERVIEWED AT VENDOME HOTEL, MIAMI BEACH. PRIO ADVISED HE DESIRES TO RETURN TO CUBA TONIGHT IF A PLANE IS SENT FOR HIM FROM CUBA. INS ADVISED PRIO APPARENTLY HAS BEEN IN TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH HIS FOLLOWERS IN CUBA BUT THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR A PLANE TO COME FOR HIM HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED. PRIO SAID HE DOES NOT INTEND TO RETURN ON ANY FLIGHT WHICH MIGHT BE CHARTERED BY JULY TWENTYSIX MOVEMENT.] ALL INTERESTED US AGENCIES AS WELL AS LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES NOTIFIED AND AWARE OF DETAILS AND DEVELOPMENTS OF INTEREST TO THEM. THIS OFFICE MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH INFORMANTS AND FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS OF ENTIRE SITUATION. IT DOES NOT APPEAR ANY VIOLATION WITHING OUR JURISDICTION EXISTS WITH RESPECT TO DEPARTURE FROM THIS AREA OF CASTRO OR PRIO FOLLOWERS SINCE CASTRO APPARENTLY NOW IN CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT IN CUBA. NO KNOWN ARMED GROUPS DEPARTING. BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED. THIS CONFIRMS AND ENLARGES UPON INFORMATION FURNISHED TO SUPERVISOR [REDACTED] AT BUREAU TELEPHONICALLY.

b7C

T E A G U E

END AND ACK PLS IN ORDER

WA FOR RELAY

WA 10-26 PM OK FBI AXXX WA JG

JK OK FBI JK GWC

TU DISC V

~~SECRET~~  
ORIGINAL-DIRECTOR

through Belmont

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 1 1959

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

URGENT 1-1-59 8-27 AM EST R L B

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM SAC, MIAMI 2 P

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-18-99 BY 60267NLS/BES/ST  
4-20-99 60267MS/BC/ST 96-24

CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES, FPM - CUBA. LEGAT JOHN WACHTER, HAVANA, TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED MIAMI FIVE FIFTY AM THIS DATE THAT VERY RELIABLE SOURCES IN CUBA HAVE REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT BATISTA HAS LEFT CUBA WITH THREE PLANELOADS OF FAMILY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR UNKNOWN DESTINATION. FIRST REPORT RECEIVED THREE THIRTY AM THIS DATE THROUGH POLICE CONTACTS HAVANA. SAME INFORMATION RECEIVED BY OTHER US AGENCIES AT ABOUT SAME TIME FROM OTHER CUBAN SOURCES. THIS REPORT BEING ACCEPTED AS A FACT IN US CIRCLES HAVANA. LEGAT STATED THAT BATISTA REPORTEDLY LEFT A JUNTA UNDER LEADERSHIP OF GENERAL CANTILLO IN CHARGE OF GOVERNMENT. CANTILLO HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF MILITARY OPERATIONS IN ORIENTE PROVINCE FOR BATISTA. LEGAT STATED REASON FOR BATISTA-S DEPARTURE UNKNOWN IN VIEW OF MILITARY REPORTS OF LAST THREE DAYS IN LAS VILLAS PROVINCE BEING FAVORABLE TO CUBAN GOVERNMENT. LEGAT ADVISED THAT SITUATION APPEARS NORMAL IN HAVANA BUT ALL NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS BEING TAKEN FOR PROTECTION EMBASSY PERSONNEL. LEGAT HAS ADVISED APPROPRIATE EMBASSY OFFICIALS CONCERNING THIS INFORMATION AND IS PREPARING CABLE FOR TRANSMISSION UNDER NORMAL METHOD. [REDACTED] IN CHARGE OF INVESTIGATIVE UNIT, INS, MIAMI, CONTACTED AT SIX FIFTEEN AM THIS DATE. HE ASCERTAINED THAT DISTRICT DIRECTOR, INS MIAMI, HAD JUST ISSUED AN ALERT TO PORTS OF ENTRY IN THIS DISTRICT INS TO BE ON LOOKOUT FOR ARRIVAL

END PAGE ONE

Positive as matters stand.

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109-12-210  
184 JAN 6 1959

67C

PAGE TWO

OF BATISTA BUT NO REPORTS YET RECEIVED CONCERNING SUCH ARRIVAL.

MIAMI WILL IMMEDIATELY ADVISE CONCERNING ANY FURTHER PERTINENT  
DEVELOPMENTS

END AND ACK PLS

8-32 PXXX AM OK FBI WA AR

TU DISC V

*orig: Mr. Belmont for the Senator*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 2 1959

TELETYPE

URGENT 1-2-59 8-45 PM EST RBJ  
TO DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, NEW YORK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-18-99 BY 60270SK/LES  
4-21-99 60267MJS/BCE/RK

NEW YORK VIA WASHINGTON

FROM SAC, MIAMI 6P

CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES, FPM CUBA. CONTACTED LEGAT,  
HAVANA, THREE FORTY FIVE PM TODAY. LEGAT ADVISED MATTERS  
REMAIN UNSETTLED IN CUBA AND HAVANA. [REDACTED] WHO IS

[REDACTED] HAS KEPT ARMY IN BARRACKS.

MEMBERS OF JULY TWENTYSIX GROUP HAVE FORMED MILITIA AND

ARE ASSISTING IN MAINTAINING ORDER IN HAVANA. LEGAT ADVISED

THERE HAS BEEN SOME SHOOTING IN OLDER SECTION OF HAVANA BUT  
APPARENTLY THIS INVOLVES GROUP OF ROWDY CRIMINAL FLEMENT.

BOAT, CITY OF HAVANA, ARRIVED ON SCHEDULE THIS PM IN HAVANA  
AND IS LOADING AMERICAN TOURISTS NOW STRANDED IN HAVANA.

BOAT CAN ONLY TAKE ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED, AND SLIGHTLY OVER ONE  
THOUSAND AMERICAN TOURISTS WERE ESTIMATED TO BE IN HAVANA.

LEGAT ADVISED CASTRO UNITS HAD AUTHORIZED PAA TO SEND IN  
TWO FLIGHTS TO HAVANA WHICH WILL EVACUATE ABOUT TWO HUNDRED  
ADDITIONAL AMERICAN TOURISTS, LEAVING ABOUT THREE HUNDRED  
TOURISTS STRANDED. CASTRO FLEMENT STILL IN CONTROL OF ALL

END PAGE ONE

57 JAN 7 1959

NOT RECORDED  
184 JAN 6 1959

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b7C

b7C



PAGE TWO

COMMUNICATIONS. GENERAL STRIKE STILL ON. [REDACTED]  
BECOMING DESPONDENT OVER DELAY OF CASTRO IN COMING TO  
HAVANA. LEGAT ADVISED INDICATIONS ARE CASTRO IN COMPLETE  
CONTROL OF COUNTRY AND CASTRO-S DELAY IN COMING TO HAVANA ✓  
HAS PROBABLY PROLONGED MINOR AMOUNT OF LOOTING AND OTHER  
DIFFICULTIES ATTENDANT TO REVOLUTIONARY ACTION. LEGAT  
ADVISED NO INDICATIONS COMMUNISTS HAVE GAINED ANY CONTROL  
DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY UPHEAVAL. (LEGAT REQUESTED BUREAU  
CONSIDER NOTIFYING IMMEDIATE RELATIVES OF BUREAU EMPLOYEES  
IN HAVANA THAT ALL SAFE. SPECIFICALLY SUGGESTED [REDACTED]

b7C

[REDACTED] BE NOTIFIED IN ARLINGTON. [REDACTED]  
OF SA WACHTER BE NOTIFIED. [REDACTED] OF CLERICAL EMPLOYEE

[REDACTED] TELEPHONE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OF SA [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TELEPHONE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] LEGAT HAVERTY-S [REDACTED] IN NEW

phone

b7C

YORK. INFORMED LEGAT THIS INFORMATION WOULD BE RELAYED TO  
SOG. LEGAT WILL CONTACT ME TONIGHT AT ELEVEN PM AND IF

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

ANY DEVELOPMENTS OF PERTINENCE, BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED.

MIAMI OFFICE REPORTS AS FOLLOWS. U. S. NAVY, KEY WEST,

ADVISED SUBMARINE TENDERS USS GILMORE AND USS BUSHNELL

DEPARTED KEY WEST APPROXIMATELY NOON TODAY WITH ORDERS TO

STAND OFF COAST OF CUBA IN EVENT NECESSARY TO ASSIST

EVACUATION AMERICAN CITIZENS. RE PREVIOUS INFORMATION THAT

[REDACTED] AT MIAMI, INTENDED PERMIT

[REDACTED] TAKE OVER CONSULATE OPERATIONS. AT SUGGESTION

MIAMI OFFICE STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY AGENT TELEPHONED

STATE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON FOR INSTRUCTIONS. STATE

DEPARTMENT ADVISED JULY TWENTYSIX REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON

HAD BEEN INFORMED U. S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT OBJECT JULY

TWENTYSIX PEOPLE BEING PRESENT IN VARIOUS CUBAN CONSULATES,

BUT THEY WILL NOT BE RECOGNIZED AS REPRESENTATIVES OF CUBAN

GOVERNMENT UNTIL SITUATION IN CUBA SOLIDIFIES. STATE

DEPARTMENT SECURITY AGENT SO INFORMED MIAMI PD AND THAT

STATE DEPARTMENT NOT CONCERNED OVER WHICH FACTION OCCUPIED

CONSULATE SO LONG AS LAW AND ORDER MAINTAINED. MIAMI OFFICE

DETERMINED THAT AT FOUR PM [REDACTED] WAS [REDACTED]

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

ON BEHALF OF JULY TWENTYSIX MOVEMENT JOINTLY WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WHO IS STILL MAINTAINING HIS POSITION IN CONSULATE.

MIAMI PD HAS THIS INFORMATION. CHANGE WAS ORDERLY. NO VIOLENCE HAS OCCURRED AND SITUATION BEING CONTINUOUSLY OBSERVED BY MIAMI PD. INS, KEY WEST, ADVISED AT APPROXIMATELY SIX PM, JANUARY ONE LAST, CUBAN AIR FORCE PLANE NUMBER FORTY, A PIPER PA TWENTYTWO, HAD ARRIVED WITH [REDACTED] PILOT,

[REDACTED] CO PILOT, AND THREE MEMBERS OF [REDACTED] FAMILY ABOARD. INS, KEY WEST, ADVISED TODAY YACHT SINBAD ARRIVED

AT KEY WEST FROM CUBA WITH FOLLOWING NOTEWORTHY PERSONS ABOARD. [REDACTED] HOLDING

CUBAN DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OF UNNAMED

CUBAN SUGAR MILL. [REDACTED] OF CITY OF HAVANA. [REDACTED] WHO CLAIMS TO BE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] UNDER BATISTA AND DIPLOMAT. NONE OF THESE PERSONS ADMITTED BUT ARE BEING DETAINED BY INS ABOARD YACHT AT KEY

WEST. INS, MIAMI, ADVISED [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

END PAGE FOUR

b7C

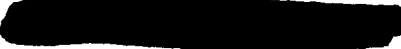
b7C

PAGE FIVE

BOTH OUTSTANDING JULY TWENTYSIX LEADERS, PREPARING DEPART MIAMI THIS PM FOR CUBA. EXAMINATION MANIFESTS DEPARTING FLIGHTS MIAMI TO CUBA REFLECTS TOTAL TWO HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR PASSENGERS HAVE DEPARTED MIAMI SINCE MIDNIGHT, JANUARY ONE, INCLUDING NINETY WHO DEPARTED SEVEN TWENTY AM AND EIGHTY SEVEN WHO DEPARTED SIX FORTY FIVE AM TODAY. PASSENGER LISTS INCLUDE MEMBERS JULY TWENTYSIX, ORGANIZATION AUTENTICA, CUBA REBELDE, REVOLUTIONARY DIRECTORY, AND OTHER CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS. ALSO INCLUDED WERE NINETEEN CUBANS WHO DEPARTED THIS AM IN CUBAN MILITARY PLANE FOR CAMP COLOMBIA, HAVANA. ONLY AMERICAN ON BOARD SIX FORTY FIVE FLIGHT WAS [REDACTED] MIAMI AND HAVANA, SLOT MACHINE OPERATOR IN HAVANA. HE WAS REPORTED IN CONTACT WITH CARLOS PRIO IN MIAMI SEVERAL YEARS AGO. INS MIAMI ADVISED THEY HAD RECEIVED REPORT THAT PILOT WHO BROUGHT [REDACTED] AND FAMILY TO FLORIDA IS RETURNING CUBA TO BRING [REDACTED] INTO U. S. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] WHO FLED CUBA TO MIAMI, HAVE BEEN PAROLED AND  
END PAGE FIVE

b7C

PAGE SIX

 IS IN DETENTION INS. MIAMI OFFICE  
MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH INFORMANTS AND OTHER INTERESTED  
GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL AGENCIES. NO DEVELOPMENTS TO DATE  
INDICATING ANY VIOLATIONS UNDER BUREAU JURISDICTION.

b7c

END ACK PLS WA AND FOR RELAY

WA 9-04PM OK FBI WA CRA

TU DISCV

*Relayed- NY*

ORIGINAL- MR. BELMONT

*FOR THE DIRECTOR*

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

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FOIPA  
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Section 552

Section 552a

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (d)(5)

☐ (b)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☐ (j)(2)

☐ (b)(3)

☐ (b)(7)(C)

☐ (k)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(D)

☐ (k)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(E)

☐ (k)(3)

☐ (b)(7)(F)

☐ (k)(4)

☐ (b)(4)

☐ (b)(8)

☐ (k)(5)

☐ (b)(5)

☐ (b)(9)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (b)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

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Section 552

Section 552a

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☐ (b)(6)

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Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

☐ AirgramXX ☐ Cablegram

DECODE OF CODED CABLE NUMBER 577 DATED JANUARY 5, 1959 AT  
 HAVANA, CUBA. RECEIVED VIA THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

URGENT

*POLITICAL MATTERS. CUBA*

CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES.

[REDACTED] THIS DATE STATED HE HAD RECEIVED INQUIRY  
 FROM [REDACTED] AS TO WHETHER THERE WERE ANY POLITICAL  
 EXILES IN AMERICAN EMBASSY. [REDACTED] QUESTIONED AMBASSADOR  
 AND RECEIVED NEGATIVE REPLY. LATER [REDACTED] CONTACTED BY  
 [REDACTED] AND WAS ADVISED  
 THAT [REDACTED] IN REPLY TO [REDACTED] SHOULD MAKE NO MENTION OF  
 [REDACTED] BEING GUEST AT EMBASSY RESIDENCE. [REDACTED] HAS  
 DEFINITE IMPRESSION THIS WAS DONE ON ADVICE OF AMBASSADOR.  
 [REDACTED] CONFIDENTIALLY ADVISED HE PERSONALLY KNEW AMBASSADOR  
 HIMSELF HAD [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IN  
 POSITION TO KNOW SUCH INFORMATION AS HE MADE SOME PLANS  
 [REDACTED] ADVISED NAVY TASK FORCE IS STILL  
 OFF COAST OF CUBA OUT OF SIGHT OF LAND. ABOVE FOR  
 BUREAU INFORMATION.

RECEIVED:

1-5-59

6:27 PM

HL

JAMES T. HAVERTY

CODING UNIT

2 1 OTHER: Orig. Director  
 cc: Mr. Roach

JAN 2 1 10 11 23

001

1/109-12-210

NOT RECORDED

184 JAN 7 1959

Above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably  
 paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 109-410-1



TELETYPE

URGENT 1-5-59 12-35 PM JLW  
TO DIRECTOR 1 AND SAC MIAMI  
FROM SAC NEW YORK 3P

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-23-99 BY 60267 MS/BCE/AN  
9-20-99 60267 MS/BCE/AN

CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES, FPM-CUBA. [REDACTED] WHO  
IS IN POSITION TO FURNISH RELIABLE INFORMATION, ADVISED SHE RECEIVED  
INFORMATION FROM [REDACTED] WHO HAD RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL  
FROM [REDACTED] IN HAVANA, WHO STATED THAT  
SINCE CUBAN TREASURY COMPLETELY DEPLETED THE CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE  
AGREED TO WORK FOR ONE MONTH WITHOUT PAY. [REDACTED] ALSO STATED SHE  
LEARNED FROM SAME SOURCE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS COME INTO THE  
POSSESSION OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE US MILITARY MISSIONS WHEREIN  
ADVICE WAS GIVEN TO BATISTA GOVERNMENT AND SETS FORTH THE COMMENTS OF  
VARIOUS US MILITARY ADVISERS. [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT THE CUBANS NOW WANT  
THE RECALL OF ALL THE INDIVIDUALS ASSIGNED TO THE MILITARY MISSIONS  
IN CUBA WHO ASSISTED THE BATISTA GOVERNMENT. [REDACTED] ALSO STATED THAT  
SHE ASCERTAINED FROM AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DESIRED HIS IDENTITY WITHHELD  
AT THE PRESENT TIME, WHO STATED THAT ON [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], AND THEN DISPERSED TO VARIOUS US  
CITIES. IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT MEYER LANSKY, [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED WERE GOING DIRECT TO MIAMI BEACH

END 58 JAN 15 1959

1/15/59 Entire message orally to  
orig [REDACTED] State.  
[REDACTED]

107-12-21  
NOT RECORDED  
184 JAN 12 1959

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-101149-101

PAGE TWO

AND OTHERS WERE COMING TO NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY BUT IDENTITIES WERE NOT KNOWN. [REDACTED] STATED SHE LEARNED FROM THIS SOURCE THAT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7D

[REDACTED] THIS SOURCE STATED THAT [REDACTED] WHILE THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN CUBA IS STILL UNSETTLED. THIS SOURCE WILL ADVISE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WHO IS CONNECTED WITH THE CIVIC RESISTANCE GROUP AND IS [REDACTED] OF SANTIAGO, CUBA, ADVISED THAT HE RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM A SOURCE WHOSE IDENTITY HE WOULD NOT DISCLOSE THAT [REDACTED] b7C

[REDACTED] GRAMERCY PARK HOTEL IN THE APARTMENT OF ONE [REDACTED] INFORMATION REGARDING [REDACTED] ALLEGED PRESENCE IN NYC WAS FURNISHED TO NYCPD WHO WILL ATTEMPT TO VERIFY THIS INFORMATION. [REDACTED] ALSO STATED SHE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM [REDACTED] WHOSE FAMILY RESIDES IN SANTIAGO, CUBA, AND WHICH IS FRIENDLY WITH DR. MANUEL URRUTIA. [REDACTED] TOLD [REDACTED] THAT SHE LEARNED THAT FIDEL

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

CASTRO REFUSES TO ENTER HAVANA UNTIL HE SOLIDIFIES HIS POSITION IN CUBA BY VISITING ALL ARMY GARRISONS, PLACING HIS MEN IN CHARGE AND REMOVING ARMS FROM ALL BATISTA FOLLOWERS. [REDACTED] STATED THAT [REDACTED] ALSO RELATED THAT CASTRO HAS ALLOWED DR. URRUTIA TO ENTER HAVANA AND WILL ASSUME THE OFFICE OF PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT THIS DATE AND THAT THE NEW CABINET OFFICIALS ALREADY APPOINTED WITH ASSUME THEIR POSTS IMMEDIATELY. [REDACTED] ALSO TOLD [REDACTED] THAT THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FACT THAT QUOTE CHE UNQUOTE GUEVARA AND [REDACTED] TOLD FIDEL CASTRO NOT TO GIVE UP ANY POWERS UNTIL HE IS FULLY IN CONTROL OF THE CUBAN SITUATION. [REDACTED] TOLD [REDACTED] THAT SHE LEARNED FROM HAVANA THIS DATE THAT CASTRO WILL NOT FOLLOW ABOVE ADVICE BUT HAS ALLOWED THE NEW CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT TO COME INTO POWER AND MAKE ALL DECISIONS. [REDACTED] FURTHER STATED THAT [REDACTED] WEALTHY SUGAR GROWER, WHO WILL TAKE [REDACTED] THE SUGAR COMMISSION, HAS ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT [REDACTED] AT [REDACTED] HOME IN FLORIDA, AND THAT [REDACTED] WIFE GAVE [REDACTED] RESIDENCE AND TELEPHONE AT THE PARK CHAMBERS HOTEL, NYC AND IS MOMENTARILY EXPECTING A CALL FROM HAVANA. [REDACTED] ALSO STATED THAT SHE LEARNED FROM [REDACTED] THAT HER HUSBAND WAS CALLED TO HAVANA TO TAKE PART IN A POLITICAL MEETING PRIOR TO URRUTIA-S TAKING OVER OFFICE OF PRESIDENT. PRESENT AT THIS MEETING AMONG THE OPPOSITIKON WAS [REDACTED] QUOTE [REDACTED] UNQUOTE [REDACTED] TOLD [REDACTED] THAT CARLOS PRIO ATTEMPTED TO SIT IN ON THIS MEETING BUT WAS EXCLUDED. ( BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

b7C

b7C

END

NY R 1 W A AR

*orig. Mr. Belmont from the Director*

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
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2

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- ☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 6 1959

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

*Political matters - Cuba*

URGENT 1-6-59 11-10 AM LWB

TO DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, NEW YORK  
NEW YORK VIA WASHINGTON

FROM SAC, MIAMI

CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES, FPM- CUBA. LEGAT, HAVANA, CONTACTED  
TEN TEN AM. DIRECTORIO REVOLUCIONARIO AND JULY TWENTYSIX HAVE  
APPARENTLY RESOLVED THEIR DIFFERENCES. DR WILL PROBABLY BE GIVEN  
REPRESENTATION IN NEW GOVERNMENT. MANUEL URRUTIA, PROVISIONAL  
PRESIDENT, NOW OCCUPIES PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. FIDEL CASTRO EXPECTED TO  
ARRIVE TOMORROW IN HAVANA. CITY QUIET. VERY LITTLE PATROLLING OF  
STREETS. WHAT PATROLS THERE ARE, ARE COMPOSED OF JULY TWENTYSIX VETS.  
ALL BANKS AND STORES OPEN TODAY. TRANSPORTATION NORMAL. ALL PERSONNEL  
FINE. NO FURTHER CONTACTS PLANNED. SUBSEQUENT COMMUNICATION WILL BE  
BY CABLE FROM LEGAT.

END AND ACK FOR RDLAY

WA 11-13 AM OK FBI WA DI

TU DISC  
ORIGINAL--MR. BELMONT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-18-99 BY 60267MS/BCE/PAK

1109-12-21  
NOT RECORDED  
184 JAN 9 1959

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-4-4

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- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

109-48-12-210-380 and 381

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- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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Routing Slip  
FD-4 (Rev. 6-14-56)

Date 1-9-59

To

☒ Director

FILE #

Att. FOREIGN LIAISON

☐ SAC

Title

☐ ASAC

☐ Supv.

☐ Agent

☐ SE

☐ CC

☐ Steno

☐ Clerk

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-18-99

BY 60261MS/BLK/ST

4-21-99

60767MS/BLK/ST

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign ..... Reassign .....

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Open Case

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Recharge serials

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Return serials

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Send Serials

to

☐ Submit new chart

☐ Submit report by

☐ Type

Embassy Weeka No. 1, January 7, 1959.

ENCLOSURE

SAC Legat

Havana

☐ See reverse side

Office

7 JAN 20 1959

F279

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
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13

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☐ (k)(2)

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109-HA-12-210 - Non-recorded Enclosure dated 1-7-59  
109-HA-12-210 - 383, 384 and Non-recorded document dated 1-14-59

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT *ahb*

DATE: January 15, 1959

FROM : MR. R. R. ROACH *RR*

SUBJECT: NEUTRALITY MATTERS

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Reference is made to my memorandum of January 7, 1959 advising you of Customs' concern in retaining a Treasury attache in Havana, Cuba.

[redacted] Bureau of Customs, advised our Liaison that Customs had decided not to return its Treasury attache to Havana (who is presently in this country, having returned for the Christmas holidays) until April of 1959, and then only if conditions will permit it. Customs' concern is, of course, the result of their action in seizing arms destined for the Castro forces. [redacted] is also concerned with the fact that the Rebels have knowledge that Customs agents in Miami had frequent dealings with [redacted] in Miami. *b7C*

My memorandum of January 7, 1959, also pointed out that Alcohol Tobacco Tax Division, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and Customs all have seizure powers. Although these agencies frequently work together on neutrality matters, they were just as frequently in competition with each other concerning these seizure cases.

**ACTION:**

For your information.

JJD:jlkyk  
(7)

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
- 1 - [redacted]
- 1 - [redacted]
- 1 - Liaison Section
- 1 - [redacted]

NOT RECORDED  
 170 JAN 20 1959

23 JAN 19 1959

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 3-19-99 BY 60267ALS/BLG/PAK

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

~~SECRET~~

DATE: January 9, 1959

FROM : Mr. R. R. Roach

SUBJECT: CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

ACTION:

None. For your information.

60267 DLS/BCE/BL 1/10  
 CLASSIFIED BY 60267 DLS/BCE/BL  
 DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1

3-19-99

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
 WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

SJP:bjt  
 (6)

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - [REDACTED]
- 1 - [REDACTED]
- 1 - Liaison Section
- 1 - [REDACTED] (S)

REG-8

104-12-210-385

2 JAN 19 1959

~~SECRET~~

67C

Legal Attache, Havana

**SECRET**

January 15, 1959

REC-8

Director, FBI (109-12-210)- 385

**FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - CUBA**  
**IS - CUBA**

**SECRET**

EX-133

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

b1

The above is for your information and should not be disseminated or discussed outside the Bureau.

1 - Mexico

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (route through for review)

VHM:sim  
(6)

62 JAN 23 1959  
FBI  
RECEIVED

CLASSIFIED BY 60767Nde/kes  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X  
3-19-99

LEGAT  
9 - JAN 16  
COMM-FBI

62 JAN 23 1959  
FBI  
RECEIVED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

67 JAN 26 1959

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

**SECRET**

FBI

Date: 1-16-59

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, WFO (97-1017)

FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - CUBA  
IS-CUBA

Attached are five copies of a letterhead memo,  
dated and captioned as above. The information contained  
therein was furnished by [REDACTED] (A)

[REDACTED]

ENCLOSURE

3-Bureau (Encls. 5)  
2-WFO  
(1-65-3731)

HJM:meg  
(5)

CLASSIFIED BY 60267WSP/ELK  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1.6  
3-19-99

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

AGENCY

REQ. REC'D

DATE

HOW FORW.

BY

C C - Wick

AIRTEL

53 JAN 22 1959

Approved: [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

**CONFIDENTIAL**

b7C

b1

b1

386

b2

b7C

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont *plc*

DATE: 1/19/59

FROM : [REDACTED] *plc*

SUBJECT: CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION [REDACTED]

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons 67C  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clayton \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

On 1/17/59 [REDACTED] of the State Department, Cuban Desk, advised SA [REDACTED] (in response to inquiry) that the U. S. has a Mutual Assistance Defense Pact with Cuba (as we have with a number of other Latin-American countries), under the terms of which we had been furnishing military supplies to the Batista Government. In March, 1958, State Department placed an embargo on shipments of arms to Cuba by merely not approving licenses for such shipments under provisions of the Munitions Control Act which is administered by State. [REDACTED] said this was done so as to keep the U. S. in a position of strict neutrality with regard to the Cuban rebellion. He said this embargo was still in effect but that other phases of the Mutual Assistance Defense Pact with Cuba were still in effect, such as U. S. military missions to that country for advisory purposes. *67C*

ACTION:

This is for record purposes.

EDC:slm  
 (5)

1 - Mr. Belmont

1 - [REDACTED]  
 1 - [REDACTED]  
 1 - [REDACTED]

*plc*  
*SD/gram*

*obtained for  
 use in memo  
 for [REDACTED] +  
 so included  
 own*

*Jan 20 1959* *67C*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-19-99 BY 60267 NCS/DAK/ST9-21-9960267 NCS/DAK/ST

REC-14

REC-14

387

JAN 20 1959

NAT. INT. SEC.

66



## Office Memorandum • UNIT

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Wannall

DATE: January 19, 1959

FROM :

SUBJECT: CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFY ON: 25X  
#392220 REC-58

Tolson  
Nichols  
Boardman  
Belmont  
Mohr  
Parsons  
Rosen  
Tamm  
Nease  
Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Holloman  
Gandy

Bureau has received an advanced copy of Fulton Lewis Jr.'s "Washington report" for 1-16-59 which reported that there has been a tendency to write off the communist connections of Fidel Castro because Batista's agents were the original disseminators of the charge. The release stated that the police dossiers in Bogota, Colombia, lists Fidel Castro as a ring leader in the bloody uprisings of 1948, at the time of the Pan American Conference, staged by the "Reds." After the revolt, the police searched the room shared by Castro and another revolutionary, both of whom were attending a Colombian student conference as representatives of the communist-controlled International Students' Union. According to the release, a press correspondent there wrote that an examination of correspondence in the room reflected that Castro and his companion belonged to the Communist Party.

The release reported that Castro's [redacted] had been identified repeatedly as a dues-paying member of the Communist Party and that Castro's [redacted] had been arrested in Mexico two years ago, together with Castro, [redacted] and twenty other hard-core followers for fomenting revolution against a friendly nation. [redacted] reportedly was member of the "Cuban Young Communist Party."

According to the release, Fidel Castro's [redacted] several years ago to attend a [redacted] and Ernesto "Che" Guevara, Castro's personnel chief, was identified as a member of the Communist Russo-Mexican Institute for Cultural Relations and active in the Guatemalan Government of communist dictator Jacobo Arbenz.

A possible source of Lewis's release is a newspaper article which appeared in the "Havana Post" newspaper on 12-17-57 and which was brought to the Bureau's attention by the Legat, Havana, on 12-18-57. The article, which was untitled, stated the communists openly favored the elimination of Dominican leader Trujillo and President Batista of Cuba by Fidel Castro's rebel movement.

HM:prg  
(6)

REC-58

JAN 27 1959

EX-135

JAN 21 1959

Classified by SP-1 CSX/BSK  
Declassify on: OADR

ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

Memorandum [redacted] to Belmont  
RE: Cuban Political Situation

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The article stated Castro and his staff had strong communist affiliations and named the individuals referred to by Lewis and described their positions and communist activities in a similar manner. The Legat advised the newspaper article of 12-17-57 indicated the data contained therein had been published in the December, 1957, issue of the "Intelligence Digest," a British publication edited by Kenneth de Courcy.

[redacted]  
(109-480-651)

There are attached memoranda relating to the communist affiliations of Fidel Castro; [redacted] and Ernesto Guevara Serna; the individuals referred to by Lewis, obtained through a review of our files. The information attached is broken down according to data furnished by other U.S. Government agencies and data developed by Bureau. Data furnished by other agencies was principally from State Department and [redacted]. All data received from Bureau sources, except material from news media, was disseminated to interested Government agencies.

ACTION:

None. For your information.

*What do we know  
re Cienfuegos?*

*Exm  
over*  
[redacted]  
memo  
to Belmont 1/4/58  
[redacted]

- 3 - 16

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 19, 1959

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DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1  
3-26-99

FIDEL CASTRO

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I. Information Developed by Other United States Government Agencies

(u) Information in our files received from other United States (U. S.) Government agencies reflect numerous allegations that Fidel Castro has been: A member of a communist group, a communist sympathizer and an aspirant to becoming a Marxist leader in Cuba. Information also reported that Castro's movement collaborated very closely with the Cuban Communist Youth Organization in Camaguey Province and received support from the Cuban Communist Party. Many allegations linking Castro with communism have emanated from the Cuban Government. The Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) advised Cuban Government is inclined to refer to all rebel sympathizers as communists. In this respect, representative statements attributed to the Cuban Government by other U. S. Government agencies are as follows: Castro is a communist sympathizer with communist ideals; Castro is either a communist or the nearest thing to it; Castro established contacts with communist elements while in Mexico, and Castro's movement is being, or is possibly completely, infiltrated by the Cuban Communist Party. (S) 109-539-50, 141; 64-200-210-1638; 109-480-228, 233; 109-430-879)

January 10, 1958, issue of the Spanish-language newspaper "El Diario de Nueva York" published in New York City carried an item entitled "Say That Fidel Castro Has Ex-Communists on His Staff." This article commented on a report in the London review "Intelligence Digest" by Kenneth de Courcy who reported that Castro and his revolutionary staff have a strong communist affiliation. He also reported that Castro also received assistance in cash, arms, and ammunition from the Soviet Union. According to the article appearing in "El Diario de Nueva York," observers in Cuba were of the opinion that the fact that Castro has on his staff some collaborators who were communists in the past does not mean that he has any compromises with the communists now, although he is receiving from them any aid that they can give him.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

109-480-652)

(62-1077-4090; b1

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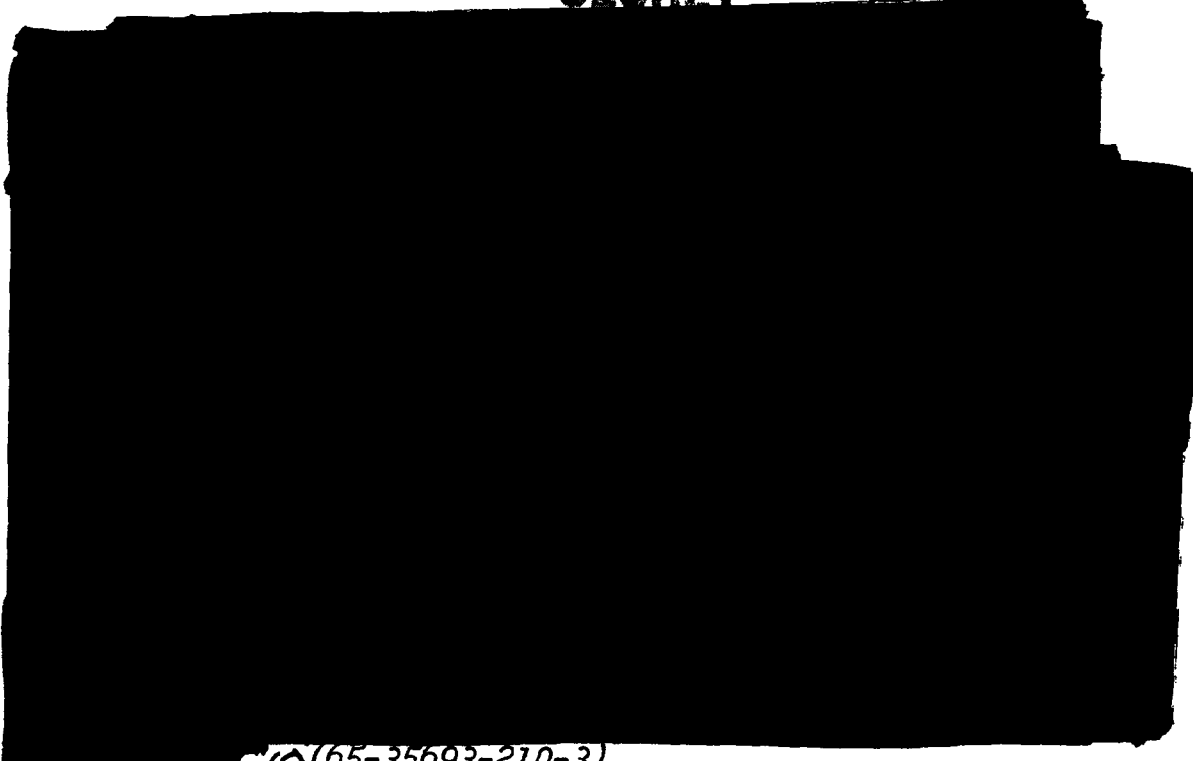
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ENCLOSURE

100-44-12-210-288 2010-01-01 100-44-12-210-288 2010-01-01

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b1

(S)(65-35693-210-3)

In connection with the Bogotazo incident, State  
advised that Colombian detectives found some of Castro's  
mail at the time of the riots, which indicated he was a  
member of the Cuban Communist Party. (64-1201-1369)

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II. Information Developed by Bureau

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Legat, Havana letter to Bureau 3-17-49 reflects [redacted] Cuban National Police, advised that Fidel Castro was among the group of agitators in front of the American Embassy on 3-12-49, Havana. According to Legat, a UP news item dated 4-19-48 at Bogota reported correspondence found in Fidel Castro's effects in a hotel room indicated he was a member of the Communist Party. (64-1201-1437) (Public source, b7C

San Juan report 1-3-51 reflects following the uprising in Puerto Rico in September and November, 1950, [redacted] on 12-12-50, advised that Cuban students organized two committees to maintain the fight for independence for Puerto Rico. According to the source, Fidel Castro headed the committee sponsored by the communists. Dissemination AAG, Secret Service, ONI, G-2, OSI, and INS, 1-9-51. (62-77721-1860) b2/b7D

Legat, Havana report dated 8-17-53 reflects Cuban Government stated through a censored Cuban press that members of the Cuban Communist Party had been involved in the 7-26-53 attempt to overthrow the Cuban Government under the leadership of Fidel Castro. Disseminated to State, [redacted] INS, 9-1-53. (64-24990-42) b2

[New York report 11-6-53 reflects information received from Legat, Havana that during Fidel Castro's student days he was reported to be closely associated with communists and was reliably reported to have been present in Bogota in 1948 when the uprising took place in that city. Disseminated to State, [redacted] OSI, ONI, G-2, INS, Customs, 12-7, 8-53. (109-430-938) b2

[Miami report 1-4-56 reports Fidel Castro entered United States at San Antonio, Texas, 10-20-55 and departed Miami, Florida, 12-10-55 for Mexico City. During this period while in the United States, Castro was interviewed by INS and stated he had never been a member of any organization affiliated with the Communist Party. Report reflects no evidence of Communist Party activity or association on the part of Castro during the period he was in the United States. Disseminated to RAB, State, [redacted] Customs, INS, 1-12-56; OSI, 2-13-58. (109-539-40) b2

A letter to the Director dated 4-3-56 from [redacted] Guatemala City, Guatemala, contained the allegation that Castro had ideas of a communist rather than a nationalist and if he proved successful in overthrowing the Cuban Government, that country would then become a satellite of the USSR. Disseminated to State, [redacted] 4-30-56. (64-39234-2)U) b7C b2

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Legat, Madrid letter to Bureau dated 5-5-58  
advised Madrid, Spain, daily newspaper "ABC," issue of  
5-2-58, carried an article reflecting an interview with  
one [REDACTED] the Cuban Government,  
who stated Fidel Castro is a communist. No dissemination,  
public source material. (109-539-147)

b7C

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January 19, 1959

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RE: ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

C K M

Cub

b7C

I. Information developed by other U. S. Government agencies

We have received information from other U. S. Government agencies concerning \_\_\_\_\_ as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ "leftists" and communists. At least two of Castro's chief lieutenants, have been closely associated with known communists. Cuban Army officers under Batista regime reported he is either communist or nearest thing to being a communist. Forces under his command used communist-type language. He has evidenced bitter anti-U. S. sentiments and authored order calling for capture of all Americans in area under his command. (S)(u)

b7C

[\_\_\_\_\_] (S)

consulting

The above information is contained in the following Bureau files: 64-200-210-1830; 64-200-210-1829; 109-539-141; 100-399191-47, Exhibit page 4; 109-551-85; 109-551-84; 109-480-1005; 109-480-1000; 109-480-1027; 109-551-107; 140-0-3319; 109-480-1036; 109-539-154.

II. Information developed by Bureau

San Antonio memorandum 8/6/58 contained information received from \_\_\_\_\_ San Luis Potosi, Mexico, \_\_\_\_\_

b7C

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109-12-210-358  
ENCLOSURE

Raul Castro

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that [REDACTED] was chiefly responsible for the kidnaping of American citizens by the Cuban rebel forces. [REDACTED] described himself as a staunch follower of Fidel Castro in Mexico. This data was disseminated to Internal Security Division, State Department, [REDACTED] G-2, ONI, OSI and Customs on 8/18/58 and is located in Bureau file 109-480-1072. b7C b2

New York memorandum 12/12/58 contained information received from [REDACTED] free lance newspaperman who was in Cuba from 10/23/58 to 12/10/58 and who interviewed Fidel Castro while there. [REDACTED] said he was shown document allegedly written [REDACTED] which was strongest communist document he had ever seen. He said he spoke to Fidel Castro about the document and Fidel indicated disapproval of document and appeared upset over it and because of [REDACTED] activities. This information was disseminated to Internal Security Division, State Department, [REDACTED] G-2, ONI, OSI and Customs on 12/16/58 and is located in Bureau file 109-551-124. b7C b2

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January 19, 1959

b7C

consulting

I. Information Developed by other United States Government Agencies

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

consulting

II. Information Developed by the Bureau

WFO furnished memorandum dated 5-16-58, together with enclosures, consisting of a statement made by [REDACTED] a registered agent of the Batista Cuban Government, to the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 4-2-58. [REDACTED] attached to his statement a copy of a document entitled "Report on Cuba," dated October, 1957, which was written and published by [REDACTED]. Information in the publication "Report on Cuba" reflected that the subject was a member of the Young Communist Party of Cuba. The memorandum, together with the above-mentioned documents, was disseminated to State, [REDACTED] and RAB on 5-19-58. (109-480-914)

b7C

b2

A publication entitled "Carib" (Caribbean Anticommunist Research and Intelligence Bureau) dated July, 1958, published in the Dominican Republic, described the subject as a "communist agent" whom the Government of Guatemala had forbidden to return to Guatemala. (Caribbean Report Number 8 dated July, 1958 - publications files)

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109-12-210-389

ENCLOSURE

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January 19, 1959

b7C

I. Information Developed by Other United States Government Agencies

We have received no information from other United States Government agencies concerning communist activities on the part of the subject.

II. Information Developed by the Bureau

On 10-24-57, [REDACTED] Universal Research and Consultants, Incorporated, Washington, D. C., a registered agent of the Batista Government of Cuba, advised that the subject, who was at that time with Fidel Castro, was a member of the Young Communist League and a known courier for the communists. This information was disseminated by the Bureau on 10-30-57 to State, [REDACTED] G-2, QNI, OSI, INS, former Assistant Attorney General Tompkins and Customs. (105-58453-20)

b7C

b2

WFO furnished memorandum dated 5-16-58, together with enclosures, consisting of a statement made by [REDACTED] referred to above, to the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 4-2-58. Attached to the statement was a copy of a document entitled "Report on Cuba," dated October, 1957. This report was written and published [REDACTED] The report stated that subject was a member of the Young Communist Party of Cuba. [The memorandum, together with the above-mentioned documents, was disseminated to State, [REDACTED] and RAB on 5-19-58. (109-480-914)

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109-12-210-348

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January 19, 1959

~~ERNESTO GUEVARA SERNA~~, also known as  
Ernesto "Che" ~~Guevara~~, "Che" Guevara

I. Information Developed by Other United States Government Agencies

[REDACTED] consulting

(109-480-787, 109-480-1452, 109-551-85, 97-3244-189, 109-539-77, 109-539-141, 105-19305-5, 105-19305-1, 109-480-837, 105-19305-6, 109-539-A, 109-551-84)

II. Information Developed by the Bureau

Our files reflect subject was in U.S. from 8/5/52 until 9/2/52 and investigation was conducted concerning his activities during that stay.

[REDACTED] He denied (S) consulting  
he was a communist at that time, but indicated he adhered to communism and described himself as a "leftist." Our investigation developed no information of a subversive nature during his stay in the U.S., and Miami report dated 9/2/52 reflecting results of our investigation and including above allegation from State Department was disseminated 9/19/52 to the Records Administrative Branch (RAB) of the Department, State Department, [REDACTED] and Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). (105-19305-3) b2

Legat, Mexico, report dated 10/2/56 reflected that Mexico City daily newspaper, "Novedades," 6/27/56 carried article indicating Mexican National Security Police had uncovered "Red infiltration of the plot against F. Batista." Article stated among subjects detained was Ernesto Guevara Serna,

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described as an Argentine national and a political revolutionary from Guatemala following the overthrow of the Arbenz Government. Article stated Guevara was an active member of the Mexican - Russian Cultural Institute. This report was disseminated to RAB, State, [REDACTED] Army, Customs, Air Force, Navy and INS on 10/22/56. (109-539-88) b2

A San Antonio memorandum dated 8/6/58 contained information from a source who claimed he was familiar with Cuban revolutionary activities and who, according to another U. S. Government agency, has furnished unreliable information in the past to that agency. This source stated during interviews from 7/14-16/58 that Guevara openly admits that he is a communist and distributes Soviet propaganda to his men. Source also stated that Guevara gives his officers instructions in communist doctrine. This memorandum was disseminated to State, [REDACTED] Army, Navy, Air Force, Customs and RAB on 8/18/58. (109-480-1072) b2

Washington Field Office (WFO) furnished memorandum dated 5/16/58 together with enclosures consisting of a statement made [REDACTED] a registered agent of the Batista Cuban Government, to the U. S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 4/2/58. [REDACTED] attached to his statement a copy of a document entitled "Report on Cuba" dated October, 1957, which was [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Information in the publication, "Report on Cuba," reflected that Guevara as of June, 1956, was chief of personnel for Castro and an active member of the Russo-Mexican Institute of Cultural Relations. This publication also stated that Guevara is believed to be the principal link between Castro and international communism. The memorandum together with above-mentioned documents was disseminated to State, [REDACTED] and RAB on 5/19/58. (109-480-914) b7c b2

Memorandum dated 5/29/58 prepared by New York Office reflects one [REDACTED] described as being in a position to furnish reliable information, advised 5/13/58 that Guevara, although denying he is a communist, gives every indication in his talk of being a Marxist or at least a "fellow traveler." This source also stated accusations have been made in Cuba that Guevara is a communist, and such has been embarrassing to the July 26 Movement to such an extent that a leader of the Movement in Santiago de Cuba had sent a letter to Guevara asking him to make a formal anticommunist statement. The source stated Guevara refused b7c

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to make a statement to this effect. This memorandum was disseminated to State, [redacted] Army, Navy, Air Force, Customs and RAB on 6/17/58. (97-3243-157) b2

A Legat, Mexico, report dated 1/31/57 contained information furnished 12/4/56 by [redacted] that Guevara has been denounced in the Mexico City press as being an Argentine communist leader who has been involved with Fidel Castro in Cuban revolutionary activities. This report was disseminated to RAB, Interior Department, State, [redacted] and Secret Service on 2/15/57. (62-7721-6436) b2/b7D b2

The same information was included in another Legat, Mexico, memorandum dated 12/31/56 which was disseminated to RAB, Secret Service, State, Interior, [redacted] Army and Navy on 1/14/57. (100-9663-77) b2

WFO 11/8/57 furnished document received from [redacted] Washington, D. C., which was entitled "Notes on Communist Activities in the Caribbean Prepared by Professors of University of Santo Domingo in Collaboration with Other Experts in Caribbean Politics." In this document, the name of Ernesto Guevara Serna was listed as one of the more important leaders and agents of international communism in the Caribbean. This document was disseminated to RAB, State and [redacted] on 11/13/57. (97-3364-20) b7C b2

In addition to the above information which has been developed by the Bureau and disseminated as set forth above, our files reflect a Washington City News Service release dated 1/12/59 which stated that charges have been made in the past that there was considerable communist influence in the revolutionary movement led by Fidel Castro. This article indicated that it has been alleged in the past that Dr. Ernesto Guevara was a communist. This news release attributed this information to an official of the U. S. Government, and the official further stated that no evidence had been received to back up the charge against Guevara and that the revolutionary elements in Cuba have been trying to avoid any communist tinge. (105-19305-A)

Another Washington City News Service release dated 6/27/56 reported that the Director of Mexico's "FBI" said the "Cuban revolutionary conspiracy" uncovered in Mexico City during June, 1956, appeared to have been supported by "certain communist organizations of the international type."

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*The release further stated that the Chief of Mexican Security Police said the documents captured in the roundup of twenty Latin American revolutionaries indicated a "Red link" through Dr. Ernesto Guevara Serna, an Argentine physician expelled from Guatemala following the fall of the procommunist regime there in 1954. (109-539-A)*

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Section 552

Section 552a

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Section 552

Section 552a

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1-16, 1958

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Subject Che Guevara  
 Birthdate & Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Localities \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date 7-21-59 BY 60624/10/59  
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Che Guevara  
105-19305  
NP 44-200-210-1061, 1708  
109-480-908, 10803, 14521  
1208, 10909, 1243  
1153, 908, 1108, 787  
109-564-9  
105-102353-5  
315 NP 109-551-82, 103X  
NP 97-3413-1  
109-12-210-308, 308P1  
NP 351 encl P6  
NP 97-3243-97 encl P2  
NP 149131, 9083  
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1-16, 1958

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Subject Ernesto Che Guevara  
 Birthdate & Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

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 313 105-19305  
 NP 109-480-5NP7, 1NP0  
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 delayed to p. 15 1226, 1NP4, 7NP  
 1NP1, 933, 8NP, 1NP  
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 11NP, 8NP, 7NP, 1NP  
 1242, 1NP7, 1NP3  
 13NP5  
 NP 109-480-A N.Y. PNP 30-58  
 NP Wash. PNP 2-19-58  
 NP N.Y. Times PNP 2-29-57  
 313 105-69383-5 314  
 NP 109-12-210-3NP01 (35) 313  
 (enclosed) 3NP5  
 109-551-10, 57, 6NP, 5NP  
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## NUMEROUS REFERENCE

## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Ernesto Che GuevaraSupervisor [REDACTED] Room 1535R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date 1-16 Searcher Initial re

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109-551-63, 107-25, 103-82  
83-22, 30-23  
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80-21, 15-24  
✓ 109-539-A Wash City news  
Service note 12-6-56  
Q13 97-3244-189  
NP 97-3244-188  
NP 97-3512-104  
NP 97-3617-1  
Q13 97-3243-110, 17-9  
Q13 7-97-2-2  
100-96663-77  
97-3364-20 encl p 27  
NP 64-23541-1  
105-19305-3  
105-15532-37  
62-7721-6436  
NP 62-103224-42 p 7  
Q13 64-200-210-1861  
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Section 552

Section 552a

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1/16, 1959

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☐ Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only

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☐ Buildup ☐ Variations  
☐ Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

Subject Ernesto Guivara Serna  
 Birthdate & Place \_\_\_\_\_

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Serna, Ernesto Guivara  
 ① 13 MFI 105-19305  
 N 109-480-10A, 12 NP  
 ① 14 62-200-210-1861  
 NP 14 109-12-210-36A/P 11  
 ① 15 109-551-84 P 92; 59  
 2 to p. 15 201 P 92; 85 P 92; 66  
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 ① 16 109-480-9 NP 651  
 ① 17 837-1 NP 51 NP 1  
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 ① 19 1 NP 7 12 NP 1  
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 "Carib" #8 July 1958 P 921  
 ① 21 109-539-88 P 93 81  
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 ① 22 109-539-A  
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Subj: Ernesto Guevara Serna

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

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Serna, Ernesto Guevara  
 Q15 62-103224-42 pg 7  
 Q15 97-3513-6  
 Q15 97-3244-188, 189  
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Section 552a

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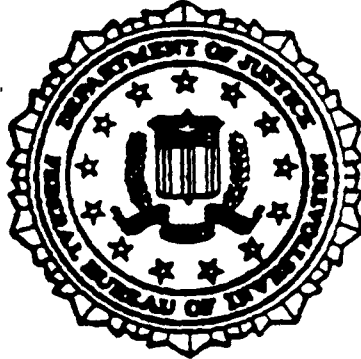
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# ***FILE DESCRIPTION***



**SUBJECT**

Cuba 1958-1964

**FILE NO.**

109-HQ-12-210

**VOLUME NO.**

10

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

~~SECRET~~TO : Mr. Belmont *W.B.*DATE: 1-16-59 *Viper Do*FROM : [REDACTED] *JP*

1 - Belmont

1 - [REDACTED]

1 - [REDACTED]

1 - Roach

1 - [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Reference is made to a memorandum from Mr. Roach to Mr. Belmont dated 1-15-59 which advised that Under Secretary of State Herter would like the Director to come to his office for lunch on Monday, 1-19-59, at 1 p.m. and that Governor Herter would like to discuss some ramifications of the Cuban situation.

[REDACTED] b1

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[REDACTED] b1 (s)

[REDACTED] b1 (s)

109-12-210

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5.8 JAN 25 1959

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
Re: CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION  
109-12-210

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(S)

[REDACTED] b1  
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follows: The facts concerning our coverage of Cuban activities are as

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
Re: CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION  
109-12-210

A meeting was held by the Attorney General in his office with representatives of Justice, State, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Customs, and the Bureau on 10-14-57 to discuss what, if any, action could be taken against Carlos Prio Socarras, former president of Cuba, who resided in Miami, and his followers. Mr. Belmont represented the Bureau. The Attorney General observed that this appeared to be an explosive situation and a conference was called to get the facts on the table and to see that everything was done that could be done. The State Department position was that the activities of Prio were causing embarrassment to the U. S. Government. The State Department representative at the meeting suggested that high priority be given to any action which could be taken against Prio. Mr. Belmont advised the Attorney General that we had been actively investigating Prio's activities since his entry into the U. S. The Attorney General was advised that our approach in Cuban matters was threefold: (1) to investigate violations of Neutrality Laws under our jurisdiction; (2) to provide data to the Department for its determination as to whether the activities of Prio and his followers require their registration under the Foreign Agents Registration Act; and (3) to gather information which might be helpful to State Department and other agencies.

The Attorney General was advised that we have actively investigated all reports of pertinent activities coming to our attention and had furnished results to the Department and other interested agencies. As a consequence, we have stressed coverage of Cuban situation and the collection and dissemination of information.

From the outset of our coverage of Cuban activities, it was evident that the chief vehicle of the pro-Castro element in the U. S. was the July 26 Movement, which took its name from the abortive attempt of Fidel Castro to capture the Moncada Army Barracks in Cuba on 7-26-53. Following this attempt, Castro briefly visited the U. S. in late 1955, at which time he established branches of his Movement in Miami and New York. With the establishment of these branches in this country, we instituted intensive coverage of their activities. Our investigations reflected that as the Movement grew, it gradually expanded to include branches in Boston, Newark, San Juan, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Our coverage, likewise, was expanded to include the

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
Re: CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION  
109-12-210

coverage of these branches. Since it was evident at its inception that the primary aim of the July 26 Movement in the U. S. was to assist in any way it could in bringing about the downfall of the Batista Government, the need for prompt and wide dissemination of the information we developed was recognized and we adopted a policy of disseminating data developed to Department, State, Army, Navy, Air Force, Customs, and INS. We called the attention of these agencies to the active revolutionary nature of the Movement in this country prior to the invasion of Cuba by Castro which took place in December, 1956.

For example, we disseminated reports showing the active nature of the Miami and New York branches as early as April, 1956. In January, 1957, we disseminated the membership list of the Miami branch, which at that time consisted of 224 individuals. Through our investigative efforts we identified the leaders of the various branches in the U. S. and identified their supporters.

Our investigations revealed that many of the persons connected with the Movement were fanatics. We would find that after being arrested in one area of the U. S. for violation of Customs Laws, a member would turn up in another part of the country engaging in similar activities, despite the fact that he was on probation and was well aware of the consequences of his acts. We have developed information indicating that a Castro supporter openly threatened to shoot any Federal agent who endeavored to interfere with his activities. The dangerous nature of these individuals was such as to require notice to the field by SAC Letter in order that Agents would be in a position to protect themselves. All of this information indicating the fanaticism of the Castro supporters and the extent of their dedication to their cause was made available to State, ~~and~~ other agencies so that they would be in a position to assess the seriousness of the problem. As early as October, 1956, we advised these agencies of alleged plans of a small group in Miami to leave the U. S. for Cuba with arms for the purpose of engaging in revolutionary activity against the Batista Government. It is noted that this was two months before the invasion of Cuba by Castro, which culminated in the overthrow of the Batista regime. b2

With the invasion of Cuba in December, 1956, by Castro, the activities of the Movement in this country became bolder and more aggressive, particularly in the illegal shipment of arms and ammunition.

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
Re: CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION  
109-12-210

Despite the fact that the illegal shipment of arms is a matter within the primary jurisdiction of Customs, Bureau went beyond jurisdictional lines and aggressively collected information pertaining to this activity, which was promptly furnished to Customs, State, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] other interested agencies. This was possible because we followed the practice of investigating and, where warranted, interviewing every individual who came to our attention as having connections with Cuban activities either of a pro-Castro or pro-Batista nature. We found many of these persons were cooperative, claiming to have no grudge against the U. S. or interests against U. S. and frequently furnished data on Cuban activities. As a result of our approach at the time of the capitulation of the Batista regime, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] as informants and one additional informant [REDACTED] as an informant for the FBI. This informant furnished accurate information [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In addition, [REDACTED] regularly provided information, which was promptly passed on to all interested agencies.

During the past two years, we have disseminated over 225 items consisting of more than 1,475 pages of intelligence data relating to the July 26 Movement, its members, and its activities. Of course, all of this has gone to State Department and [REDACTED] (84) b2

It would be impossible for anyone to read this material and not come to the immediate realization that the July 26 Movement was widespread and extremely active in this country and presented a concrete threat to the Batista regime.

In order to more aggressively pursue our investigative responsibility under Title 18, Section 960 (organizing a military expedition within the U. S. against a friendly country), the Department was requested at a conference on 12-30-58 to explore the possibility of conferring seizure powers on the Bureau. On 1-15-59 a letter was received from the Department stating that the Office of Legal Counsel was of the opinion that seizure powers could be conferred on the Bureau by Executive Order. This matter is the subject of a separate memorandum.

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
Re: CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION  
109-12-210

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None. It was thought that this information might be of interest to the Director in the event he meets with Governor Herter and in the event this is the trend of the discussion.

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~~SECRET~~

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont

DATE: January 14, 1959

FROM : [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clayton \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_  
 W. C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION  
 INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

Reference is made to a memorandum from Mr. Roach to Mr. Belmont dated 1-9-59, which indicated that Under Secretary of State Herter might call on the Director possibly to discuss the Cuban situation. For the information of the Director, a brief summary of the current Cuban situation is being set forth:

On 1-1-59, Batista and some of his principal aides fled to the Dominican Republic. Other Batista adherents including some members of Batista's family fled to the United States. We are considering the matter of incoming pro-Batista refugees to the United States primarily a matter of asylum for the Immigration and Naturalization Service and State Department to handle. However, we are carefully watching the situation to make sure that appropriate action is taken in the event any individuals of particular security or criminal interest are admitted to the United States. Demonstrations of anti-Batista Cubans in the United States took place in conjunction with the arrival of pro-Batista refugees in all United States cities involved. While the pro-Batista refugees were arriving in the United States many anti-Batista exiles including former Cuban President Carlos Prío Socarras were departing for Cuba.

109-12-210

VHN:prd  
 (5)

1 - Mr. Roach

1 - Mr. Belmont

1 - [REDACTED]

1 - [REDACTED]

JAN 26 1959

JAN 23 1959

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Memorandum [REDACTED] to Belmont  
Re: Cuban Political Situation  
109-12-210

**SECRET**

The United Press reported that American tourists caught in Havana during the upheaval complained that the American Embassy failed to notify them of the danger; provided only skimpy meals; and failed to relay evacuation reports to them from Washington.

Following Batista's flight, a military junta took command of the Cuban Government. Castro, however, immediately made it clear he would accept nothing less than the complete capitulation of the Government forces and would fight on until his candidate for provisional president, Manuel Urrutia, was named to the presidency. Castro's forces quickly obtained complete control of Cuba; with the installation of Urrutia as provisional president a semblance of normality returned to Cuba.

In the United States the remaining pro-Castro exiles were concerned that one of their number might become involved in an incident which might reflect unfavorably on the new Government of Cuba and indicated that anyone who became involved in such an incident would be severely dealt with.

Almost immediately after the flight of Batista, reports were received that the pro-Castro element was not in favor of the continuance of Earl E. T. Smith as United States Ambassador to Cuba as he was looked upon as a symbol of Batista. Smith's resignation was publicly announced on 1/10/59. On 1/12/59, the Cuban magazine "Bohemia" carried an unsigned article attacking Smith stating Smith had been close to Batista for the purpose of obtaining concessions for big American business; that Smith claimed that the Castro forces were communists; and that Smith had been Batista's best propagandist for the "electoral farce" which took place in November, 1958.

Since the establishment of the new Government in Cuba, it has been reported that the Communist Party is operating openly and publishing its newspaper "Hoy"; that more than 2,200 persons connected with the Batista regime including some 800 in Havana are under arrest some of whom have already been executed; that Castro and other leaders of his movement have publicly stated that the United States military missions should be recalled from Cuba and that Castro has indicated that only a limited number of gambling casinos catering only to American tourists would be allowed to reopen. Legat, Havana, on 1/12/59 commented that, while Castro continued to hold numerous press conferences, the provisional president remained quiet.

**SECRET**

Memorandum [redacted] to Belmont  
Re: Cuban Political Situation  
109-12-210

**SECRET**

b7C

The Bureau has closely followed the activities of anti-Batista exiles in the United States, particularly to determine whether their activities brought them within the purview of the Foreign Agents Registration Act or neutrality statutes under our jurisdiction. For example as a result of our investigations the Department has registered the Castro movement in New York, Miami and Chicago and is soliciting the registration of the movement in Los Angeles. In addition, since June, 1958, the Department has solicited the registration of or registered 7 other individuals or organizations. Included among these was the solicitation of the registration of Cuba's provisional president on 12/19/58. The Department has also authorized the prosecution of one individual for failure to register and he was indicted 11/18/58.

Our intelligence coverage has produced voluminous information concerning anti-Batista exile activity, which was promptly given wide dissemination to the interested agencies, including the Department of State. While the information disseminated by us originated with numerous sources familiar with anti-Batista and pro-Castro activity, it is noted that the Miami Office developed one highly valuable informant who was extremely close to the Castro movement. For example in October, 1958, this informant [redacted] in Cuba, which resulted in his obtaining valuable intelligence data which was promptly made available to the interested agencies. Information furnished by this informant also provided the basis for action by other agencies such as Customs. As an indication of the [redacted]

b7C D

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For your information.

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m  
A. B.

✓

**SECRET**

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT

DATE: January 15, 1959

FROM : MR. R. R. ROACH

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE ON CUBA  
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

On January 15, 1959, Bureau representatives sat in on the above informal conference as observers, which was held for the purpose of briefing Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (ACSI) on the Cuban situation, particularly Castro's military victory, and to develop any available biographical data on his principal military leaders.

It was ACSI's opinion that Castro's military victory was due both to Castro's successful guerrilla tactics and the incompetence of Batista's commanders. Specifically, it was pointed out that through his guerrilla tactics, Castro had cut communication lines to the extent that the Batista Army could not form coordinated tactical units in the field. Castro never did engage the Cuban Army unless the odds were on his side.

In addition, the Batista Army commanders were unable to comprehend and cope with this type of guerrilla warfare. It has been the Army's experience under the Batista regime that Batista was resentful to the establishment of a well-trained officer cadre as it posed a threat to his regime. The excuse in refusing this training, particularly here in the U. S., to Cuban officers was that the Cuban economy would not permit it. As a matter of fact, all expenses for training in this country were paid for by the U. S. Army. Following the 1952 Batista coup, Batista eliminated the higher ranking officers in the Cuban Army and appointed junior officers to command positions. This resulted in the Cuban Army being left without a trained command. It was the opinion of the Army that there was no Cuban general in the army capable of commanding a battalion as a result of this. The Army is concerned that this same situation could develop under a weak Castro Government and that the Cuban Army will continue to be graft-ridden and corrupt and built to support a man rather than its country.

At this conference, an attempt was made to develop background information on Castro and his senior officers, whose identities are presently known to the Army, for the purpose of considering subsequent contact with these individuals. The names of several of Castro's ranking commanders were mentioned and little was known about them; however, they appear to have had previous experience with

whom they considered a fairly honest man and who was favorably disposed to the U. S.

JJD:VHN:jlm

23 JAN 23 1959

1 - Mr. Belmont

1 -

1 -

1 -

1 - Liaison Section

1 -

1 -

100-10-210

Memo Roach to Belmont  
RE: CONFERENCE ON CUBA  
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE

~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED] b1

The Army is seriously concerned with the Cuban situation and is particularly desirous of identifying the "strong man" who will immerge from the Castro Government. They feel, of course, that this will be a military man.

ACTION:

For your information.

J

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: January 17, 1959

FROM : [REDACTED]

Tolson ☒  
 Boardman ☒  
 Belmont ☒  
 Mohr ☒  
 Nease ☒  
 Parsons ☒  
 Rosen ☒  
 Tamm ☒  
 Trotter ☒  
 W.C. Sullivan ☒  
 Tele. Room ☒  
 Holloman ☒  
 Gandy ☒

SUBJECT: CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION

The Director is scheduled to meet with Under Secretary of State Christian A. Herter at 11 a.m., Monday, January 19, 1959, in the office of Governor Herter at the State Department. His office is on the fifth floor of the Department of State building at 21st Street and Virginia Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Governor Herter's [REDACTED] in extending the invitation indicated no one else would be present and that Governor Herter would like to discuss some ramifications of the Cuban situation. We have received no other information as to what Governor Herter might specifically discuss.

On that basis we have prepared attached memorandum for use of the Director. It is prefaced by a table of contents. This memorandum outlines the current political situation in Cuba; shows recent U.S. policy discussions on the subject; reflects the extensive Bureau coverage of the Cuban situation; details existing Bureau liaison arrangements in Cuba; comments on rebel resentment against the FBI in Cuba; and furnishes background data on Governor Herter.

ACTION:

This memorandum is for the use of the Director.

109-12-210  
Enclosure  
SBD:dmd  
(7)

- 1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - [REDACTED]  
1 - Mr. Holloman  
1 - Mr. Wannall  
1 - [REDACTED]

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8 JAN 28 1959

ENCLOSURE

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January 17, 1959

CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION

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ENCLOSURE

-394



**SECRET**

I CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN CUBA

A. Recent Political Developments

As a result of a successful military campaign, highlighted by extensive guerrilla warfare tactics, Fidel Castro, leader of the July 26 Movement, caused the downfall of former President Fulgencio Batista of Cuba in the early morning hours of January 1, 1959. Batista and some of his principal aides fled to the Dominican Republic. Other Batista adherents, including some members of his family fled to the United States.

Following Batista's flight, a military junta took command of the Cuban Government. Castro, however, immediately made it clear that he would accept nothing less than the complete capitulation of the Government forces and would fight on until his candidate for provisional president, Manuel Urrutia, was named to the presidency.

American tourists caught in Havana during the chaotic upheaval complained that the American Embassy failed to notify them of the danger; provided only skimpy meals and failed to relay evacuation reports to them from Washington.

Castro's forces quickly obtained complete control of Cuba and with the installation of Urrutia as provisional president a semblance of normality returned to Cuba. There are indications that Urrutia may, however, be a figurehead with Castro exercising the real power. Our Legal Attache in Havana on January 12, 1959, commented that while Castro continued to hold numerous press conferences, the provisional president remained quiet.

Since the establishment of the new government in Cuba it has been reported that the Communist Party is operating openly and publishing its newspaper "Hoy." More than 2,200 persons connected with the former regime, including some 800 in the city of Havana have been reported as under arrest. Some of these have already been executed. The recklessness with which the Castro forces began to liquidate the members of the Batista regime led to cries that the new government was no better than the old and that one tyrant had merely supplanted another. The Castro executions are obnoxious to citizens of the United States and many prominent individuals have voiced their protestations.

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Despite the fact that the United States afforded recognition to the new government set by Castro, Castro and other leaders of the Movement have publicly stated that the United States military missions should be recalled and have made disparaging remarks against the United States.

Almost immediately after the flight of Batista reports were received that the pro-Castro element was not in favor of the continuance of Earl E. T. Smith as U.S. Ambassador to Cuba as he was looked upon as a symbol of Batista. Smith's resignation was publicly announced on January 10, 1959. On January 12, 1959, the Cuban magazine "Bohemia" carried an unsigned article attacking Smith stating that Smith had been close to Batista for the purpose of obtaining concessions for big American business; that Smith claimed that the Castro forces were communists; and that Smith had been Batista's best propagandist for the "electoral force" that took place in November, 1958. On January 16, 1959, it was reported in the press that Fidel Castro planned to visit the United States in the near future to present Cuba's case to the people of the United States.

Coincident with the flight of Batista and his principal aides to the Dominican Republic on January 1, 1959, other Batista adherents fled to the United States. The Bureau position on the matter of these pro-Batista refugees is that the question of asylum is primarily one for the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the State Department. However, we are carefully watching the situation to make sure that appropriate action is taken in the event any individuals of particular security or criminal interest are admitted to the United States. Upon arrival of the pro-Batista adherents in the United States demonstrations of anti-Batista elements took place in United States cities where they arrived. At the same time many anti-Batista exiles in the U.S., including former Cuban President Carlos Prío Socarras, were departing for Cuba.

It is evident that the presence those pro-Batista adherents in the U.S. who fled Cuba is a source of irritation to the present Cuban Government. Press reports on January 17, 1959, indicated Castro has called for a mass demonstration on January 21, 1959, to reject foreign intervention and demand that the United States return Batista "war criminals" and their money. It was also reported on January 17, 1959, that "American officials," not named, had said the U.S. may have to return escaped supporters of Batista to Cuba to stand trial if the new Cuban Government accuses them of serious crimes such as

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murder. These officials said that under the U.S.-Cuban extradition treaty this country would not have to send back persons cited only for political offenses but Cuba could ask this country for those who fled if it accused them of certain specific crimes such as murder, rape, kidnaping and assault with a deadly weapon. A Federal Court would then consider each case and decide on extradition. The demand for return of Cuban money would also be handled by a Federal judge but officials were quoted as saying no formal demand had been received for return of Batista adherents or money.

These press reports commented that Castro's demand was apparently primarily aimed at [REDACTED] who the rebels claim led a private army in Cuba which committed atrocities against Batista opponents. [REDACTED] and others escaped in two yachts to Key West, Florida, when the government fell. The rebels claim he carried away \$17,000,000 from the treasury. U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service reportedly found \$100,000 on the yachts. INS is holding [REDACTED] in a detention camp in Texas. Several of Batista's children are among the other Cubans in the U.S. who might be affected by Castro's demand. b7c

Political asylum, of course, may be the plea of those sought by the Cuban rebels. Historically in the past the U.S. has granted asylum to genuine political figures who do not want to return and has been reluctant to deport persons who can prove they would be subject to physical harm or unfair trials at home.

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B. Information Provided [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] who had been providing information to our New York Office voluntarily with regard to other matters contacted us on January 1, 1959, following the downfall of Batista. Since that time she has provided considerable information concerning the Cuban situation as set forth hereinafter. b7C

[REDACTED] claims to be personally acquainted with Generalissimo Trujillo of the Dominican Republic and former President Batista and to have contact with Senators Wayne B. Morse and Hubert Humphrey. She also claims to be on friendly terms with former Secretary of State James F. Byrnes and the former [REDACTED] b7C

[REDACTED] was contacted in November, 1958, [REDACTED] the July 26 Movement in the United States, who requested her advice on various problems facing the Movement. In addition to [REDACTED] was also in constant contact with other pro-Castro individuals of the July 26 Movement such as [REDACTED] the July 26 Movement in the United States; [REDACTED], a Havana real estate man; [REDACTED] reportedly related to provisional president Urrutia; [REDACTED] wealthy sugar plantation owners in Cuba.

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109-44-12-210-394, enclosure, dated 1-17-59.

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On January 4, 1959, [redacted] advised that [redacted] a well-known attorney from Florida, who claimed to be a personal friend of Vice President Nixon, had been in contact with the Department of State on January 4, 1959. She also advised that [redacted] a New York attorney, had been in contact with Senator Humphrey, Senator Morse and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. She stated that [redacted] related that [redacted] was acceptable to both the Republicans and Democrats as Ambassador to Cuba but that Mrs. Roosevelt has withheld comment. On January 4, 1959, [redacted] advised that [redacted] was in Washington, D. C., conferring with the Department of State in an effort to get Ambassador Smith to submit his resignation. The Cubans desired to have [redacted] as the new U.S. Ambassador inasmuch as he had lived in Cuba and understood the present situation. According to [redacted] was reluctant to accept the post but would back anyone suggested by the Department of State who would have the best interests of the United States at heart. b7C

On January 4, 1959, [redacted] advised that the Cubans were much concerned over the treatment given by officials by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Miami police to pro-Castro exiles returning to Havana. She stated that all the exiles leaving Miami were searched because it was rumored that some one was carrying a revolver. b7C

On January 4, 1959, [redacted] ascertained that there was much fighting among various revolutionary groups over the appointment of a new cabinet and that it was hoped that the provisional president would appoint members of the various revolutionary groups to the cabinet rather than only members of the July 26 Movement. b7C

On January 4, 1959, [redacted] advised that members of the Communist Party in Havana had rushed the National Union Building and had been routed by the Castro forces. b7C

On January 4, 1959, [redacted] advised that the Russian Government was making unusual overtures and putting pressure on the rebel government through unnamed Latin-American countries to have the Russians recognized and diplomatic relations established. She reported that the Cuban treasury was completely looted by Batista and his government when they left Cuba and that the new government was in dire need of money. She advised that the Russian Government through the b7C

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Governments of Costa Rica and Venezuela had offered unlimited funds to the new government but the new government was reluctant to accept this offer.

On January 4, 1959, [redacted] advised that she had been requested by the July 26 Movement in the United States to contact the FBI to see if the FBI could do anything to effect the release of two of the Movement's members who had been apprehended transporting arms. The July 26 Movement was concerned as it did not desire any adverse publicity. The Bureau made no comment in this matter. b7C

On January 5, 1959, [redacted] advised that she and [redacted] had met with [redacted] on January 4, 1959. [redacted] and [redacted] were impressed with [redacted] sincerity and the fact that if [redacted] should be appointed United States Ambassador to Cuba he would be likely to improve United States-Cuban relations. b7C

On January 5, 1959, [redacted] advised that the new Cuban cabinet was discussing three men who would be acceptable as United States Ambassador. These were (1) [redacted] U.S. Department of State, Washington, D. C.; (2) [redacted] Havana, Cuba; and (3) [redacted] Miami, Florida. She learned that the Cuban people as a whole were upset because the Department of State had not as yet made a public statement regarding the new government. b7C

On January 5, 1959, [redacted] advised that the followers of Castro were concerned over the fact that Ernesto "Che" Guevara, one of Castro's military officers, and [redacted] had instructed Fidel Castro not to give up any powers until he was fully in control of the situation. Fidel Castro, however, would not follow this advice and allowed the new government to come into power. b7C

On January 5, 1959, [redacted] advised that the new government in Cuba had come in the possession of correspondence from various United States military missions which contained advice to the Batista Government as well as the comments of various United States military advisors. According to [redacted] the Cubans wanted the recall of all individuals assigned to United States military missions in Cuba who had assisted the Batista Government. b7C

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On January 7, 1959, [redacted] advised that the head of the July 26 Movement in the United States was disappointed over the appointment of Dr. Manuel Urrutia as provisional president because he felt that Urrutia was not strong enough to cope with the present situation. This individual also told [redacted] that anyone who believed that Castro did not have the real power in Cuba was greatly mistaken. He also advised [redacted] that the July 26 Movement had no fear of communists in the new cabinet but was concerned about the allegations that communists were in the July 26 Movement. He added that the Movement did accept man power from the communist element during the revolt but that the Movement had not been influenced politically by the communist element and that this element would be eliminated from the Movement. He believed that the new government would not be strong enough to solve the problems facing Cuba and that Castro would make changes and would appoint people who would have both the background and experience in handling Cuba's problems. He stated that Cuba needed experienced technicians and looked toward the United States for technical assistance in solving Cuba's internal problems. b7C

On January 7, 1959, [redacted] learned from the head of the July 26 Movement that [redacted] in Washington, D. C. after the fall of Batista, left for Cuba on January 6, 1959, with sealed papers from the Embassy which would be reviewed in Havana by the new government. The head of the July 26 Movement told [redacted] that the Movement did not have any concern about what was contained in the documents regarding former Cuban officials but that the Movement was concerned about the individuals mentioned therein who were connected with the United States Government. b7C

On January 8, 1959, [redacted] advised that the July 26 Movement was very happy with the recognition of the new government by the United States. She added that the Cuban people were still upset over the fact that Ambassador Smith was still assigned to Cuba. She noted that Fidel Castro was very bitter toward the British Government over the sale of planes to the Batista Government and that Castro was in favor of the recall of the British Ambassador. According to [redacted] the provisional president was able to reason with Castro concerning the British Ambassador but that the question of the United States Ambassador was a different story because it affected the feeling and the thinking of the entire population of Cuba which was against Ambassador Smith. b7C

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On January 8, 1959, [REDACTED] advised that the Cuban rebels were very much concerned over a statement concerning the Communist Party which was mentioned in the newspapers and identified as having come from Ernesto "Che" Guevara, one of Castro's military leaders. According to [REDACTED] Guevara was a "foreigner" and had no say in the new government and did not speak for the Cuban people concerning communism. She added that Guevara was an excellent military man, was used by the July 26 Movement as a military man, and that Castro had had his difficulties with him. b7C

On January 15, 1959, [REDACTED] learned from [REDACTED] the Havana Sugar Institute and a member of the cabinet, that the entire Cuban cabinet was against Castro's orders dealing with the execution of the followers of Batista. This individual told [REDACTED] that the Cuban Government was desperate for the United States Government or the Department of State to assist Cuba now without further delay. [REDACTED] advised that she was attempting to influence the Castro Government to halt the current wave of executions and to institute a Nuremburg trial system. She also learned from [REDACTED] that a special cabinet meeting was to be held to demand that Castro stop the executions. b7C

On January 16, 1959, [REDACTED] advised that she had received a call from the secretary of [REDACTED] who advised her that the cabinet had met and thought that her recommendation to set up trials along the lines of the Nuremburg trials was an excellent idea. It was requested that she come to Havana for the purpose of exerting her influence to stop the executions and to set up a Nuremburg trial system. [REDACTED] added that shortly thereafter she received a call from the Royal Bank of Canada, New York Branch, advising her that the bank had been instructed to make \$1,000 available to her for a trip to Havana. She indicated that she might visit the Department of State on her way to Cuba. [REDACTED] advised that she would have no objection if the Department of State got in touch with her. b7C

All of the foregoing information concerning the Cuban situation furnished by [REDACTED] was disseminated to the Department, the Department of State, [REDACTED] the Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force. b7C

In addition, [REDACTED] on January 9, 1959, advised [REDACTED] that she had learned from [REDACTED] on January 8, 1959, that he had abandoned the idea of becoming United States Ambassador b7C

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to Cuba. [REDACTED] stated that the Republican Party in Florida had conducted an inquiry into the matter and advised [REDACTED] to give up the idea of becoming Ambassador as there was too much political pressure behind United States Ambassador Smith.

[REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] related that the Republican Party in Florida ascertained that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] an attorney from South Miami, an individual named [REDACTED] and an individual named [REDACTED] both from Miami, Florida, had investments in Cuba and the profits were too lucrative to have [REDACTED] replaced as [REDACTED] was taking care of their investments. [REDACTED] stated that the Republican Party in Florida ascertained in the beginning that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was sympathetic toward the revolutionary movement but was induced to visit Cuba and was given shares and interests in business there for lending his name, for visiting Cuba and for talking to former President Batista. [REDACTED] advised that the business interests included mining and cement plants and in some way the sugar industry. [REDACTED] also stated that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] fronted for these investments and that [REDACTED] b7C  
fronted for the Italian money and was also influential at the Presidential palace in business ventures between

Ambassador Smith and former President Batista. [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] to be extremely careful with this information and stated that he had further ascertained that [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] who was in the United States Navy with Vice President Nixon and [REDACTED] during World War II.

[REDACTED] stated that he had also ascertained that Vice President Nixon was also in on the investments in Cuba and that all individuals involved had benefited financially. [REDACTED] advised that when the Vice President visited Miami, Florida, he stayed at the home of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] requested that this information not be disseminated outside the Bureau. No commitment was made to her in this regard. This information was received on the night of January 9, 1959; Smith's resignation as Ambassador was announced on the morning of January 10, 1959; and as this resolved the situation, no dissemination was made of this information.

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C. Allegations of Communist Connections of Castro Supporters

There have been recurring charges of communist connections on the part of persons associated with Fidel Castro and communist support of his movement. Many of these charges originated with former Cuban President Fulgencio Batista and his followers whose purposes would be best served by indicting their enemies with a charge of communism.

The fact that there may have been agreements between Castro and the communists seems to be supported by his actions in permitting the Communist Party newspaper to resume publication after he took control in Cuba and allowing the Party to operate openly.

The Bureau has remained constantly alert for any information which might show communist connections on the part of individuals associated with the July 26 Movement. We have received no information either recently or in the past that the Movement is dominated or supported by the communists or has any important communist backing. We do know, of course, that the Movement is of interest to the communists and that [REDACTED] Fidel Castro, has caused some embarrassment to the Movement in view of his alleged procommunist leanings. [REDACTED]

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In March, 1949, the chief of the Cuban Police advised our Legal Attache in Havana that Fidel Castro was the so-called student leader who was involved in disturbances at Bogota, Colombia, in April, 1948, and that according to a United Press item, correspondence had been found among Castro's effects in his hotel in Bogota indicating he was a member of the Communist Party.

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On January 2, 1959, our Legal Attache reported that the two Castro leaders who arrived in Havana to take control following the Batista Government collapse the previous day were Ernesto (Che) Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos, both of whom had alleged communist backgrounds.

The State Department advised us in August, 1952, that Guevara was reported to have stated that he was a former communist and that he had received aid for an extensive trip from communists in Peru and Colombia. The State Department reported that although he adhered to communism in his conversations Guevara denied he was a communist and described himself as a "leftist." (S)(u)

[REDACTED] (S)

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In November, 1956, our Legal Attache in Havana received information from Cuban sources to the effect that Camilo Cienfuegos was a communist agitator and had been arrested in the past as a member of the Communist Party.

Both Guevara and Cienfuegos have been in the United States in the past at which times they were actively investigated by the Bureau. We developed no information indicating they were engaged in any communist activities while here or had any connections with the Communist Party of the United States.

We will continue to follow the Cuban situation and afford very close and vigorous attention to any allegations of communist involvement therein. We will remain particularly alert for any signs of communist connections on the part of individuals in the United States associated with Fidel Castro or any Cuban dissident groups.

All information mentioned above as having been received from the Cuban Police and other Cuban sources by our Legal Attache has been disseminated to State, [REDACTED] and other interested agencies. (S)(u) b2

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An advance copy of a Fulton Lewis, Jr., column scheduled for release January 16, 1959, was received January 15, 1959. Lewis commented that Castro's associations and background leave much to be desired in the field of communist leanings. He recognized that Batista had put the tag of communist on everything not pro-Batista. He then rehashed in general the allegations of Fidel Castro's participation as a student in disturbances in Colombia which have been previously set forth in this memorandum. He alleges communist leanings on the part of [REDACTED] Fidel Castro, and Ernesto (Che) Guevara who have been previously mentioned in this memorandum. He alleges communist connections on the part of Castro's [REDACTED] and Castro's [REDACTED] b7C

It is interesting to note that there is a close similarity between the data in the Lewis column and that which appeared in the Havana Post, an English-language newspaper in Havana on December 17, 1957. The Havana Post in turn attributed its information to the December, 1957, issue of Intelligence Digest which was described as a British publication edited in London. We are conducting a complete check of our files regarding the allegations appearing in the Lewis column concerning Castro adherents. This involves a review of over 1,200 references, is being handled as a special project this weekend and will be completed as expeditiously as possible.

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D. Bureau Investigation of [REDACTED]  
also known as [REDACTED]

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The following suggests the possibility that Governor Herter may desire to discuss with the Director the Bureau's Registration Act investigation of [REDACTED] and its possible bearing on relations between the United States and the new Castro Government.

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Our investigation of [REDACTED] has revealed that in about December, 1957, Castro or other rebel forces in Cuba committed various acts of sabotage against properties of sugar companies operating in that country. These acts consisted of burning standing sugar cane crops, killing cattle, destroying culverts and derailing trains. Other acts of this nature followed in 1958. In late November, 1958, Castro representatives demanded to be paid 15¢ for each bag of sugar produced by these companies during the entire year 1958. When the companies agreed to the demands, [REDACTED] presented himself in the company offices in New York City on December 4, 1958; stated he had been commissioned by Castro to collect the money due; and was given checks totaling over \$361,000 in compliance with Castro's demands. Following this, the companies received receipts for these payments signed [REDACTED] Castro's July 26 Movement. b7c

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*1. Expedite getting some ruling from Dept.*

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II UNITED STATE POLICY DISCUSSIONS

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III.. BUREAU COVERAGE OF CUBAN SITUATION

The almost continuous state of political unrest in Cuba over the past several years and its attendant ramifications among Cuban exile and refugee groups in the United States formed the basis for Bureau coverage of Cuban activities from both an investigative and intelligence standpoint even before Castro forces began organizing support in this country.

Following the downfall in March, 1952, of former Cuban President Carlos Prío Socarras, Cuban revolutionaries in this country began rallying behind him and preparing to oust Batista through Prío's leadership. Their activities were investigated by the Bureau because of possible violations of the Registration Act and those sections of the Neutrality Act under our jurisdiction relating to organizing expeditions in the United States against foreign countries. As a result of these investigations we developed considerable intelligence data which we regularly furnished to the Department of State, [REDACTED] and other interested agencies. b1

In late 1955 Fidel Castro, who had led the abortive attack in Cuba on July 26, 1953, came to the United States in an effort to rally support for another attack on Cuba. Upon his arrival in this country [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] On November 15, 1955, [REDACTED] sent a personal letter to the Director enclosing an undated news clipping from an unidentified newspaper pointing out that Castro was in Miami making plans to topple the Government of Fulgencio Batista. [REDACTED] commented that it was "getting a little tiresome having our country abused as a breeding place for unrest." By letter dated November 23, 1955, the Director assured [REDACTED] that we had already initiated an investigation of Castro; had instructed our Legal Attache in Havana to get in touch with the charge d'affaires of our Embassy in that city concerning Castro; and would, of course, furnish our investigative results to the State Department and other interested agencies. At the same time we issued instructions to our Legal Attache, New York and Miami designed to intensify the coverage we had already instituted on Castro and his forces. b7C

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By 1957 the efforts of Prio and his followers to bring about the downfall of Batista had become so much of a problem to our Government that a meeting was held by the Attorney General in his office with representatives of Justice, State, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Customs and the Bureau on October 14, 1957, to discuss what, if any, action could be taken against Prio, who then resided in Miami, and his followers. Mr. Belmont represented the Bureau. The Attorney General observed that this appeared to be an explosive situation and a conference was called to get the facts on the table and to see that everything was done that could be done. The State Department position was that the activities of Prio were causing embarrassment to the United States Government. The State Department representatives at the meeting suggested that high priority be given to any action which could be taken against Prio. Mr. Belmont advised the Attorney General that we had been actively investigating Prio's activities since his entry into the United States. The Attorney General was advised that our approach in Cuban matters was threefold: (1) to investigate violations of neutrality laws under our jurisdiction; (2) to provide data to the Department for its determination as to whether the activities of Prio and his followers require their registration under the Foreign Agents Registration Act; and (3) to gather information which might be helpful to State Department and other agencies.

The Attorney General was advised that we had investigated all reports of pertinent activities coming to our attention and had furnished results to the Department and other interested agencies. As a consequence of this meeting we have placed great stress on coverage of the Cuban situation and the collection and dissemination of information.

From the outset of our coverage of Cuban activities, it was evident that the chief vehicle of the pro-Castro element in the United States was the July 26 Movement, which took its name from the abortive attempt of Fidel Castro to capture the Moncada Army Barracks in Cuba on July 26, 1953. Following this attempt, Castro briefly visited the United States in late 1955, at which time he established branches of his Movement in Miami and New York. With the establishment of these branches in this country, we

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instituted intensive coverage of their activities. Our investigations reflected that as the Movement grew, it gradually expanded to include branches in Boston, Newark, San Juan, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Our coverage, likewise, was expanded to include the coverage of these branches. Since it was evident at its inception that the primary aim of the July 26 Movement in the United States was to assist in any way it could in bringing about the downfall of the Batista Government, the need for prompt and wide dissemination of the information we developed was recognized and we adopted a policy of disseminating data developed to the Department, State, Army, Navy, Air Force, Customs, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. We called the attention of these agencies to the active revolutionary nature of the Movement in this country prior to the invasion of Cuba by Castro, which took place in December, 1956.

For example, we disseminated reports showing the active nature of the Miami and New York branches as early as April, 1956. In January, 1957, we disseminated the membership list of the Miami branch, which at that time consisted of 224 individuals. Through our investigative efforts we identified the leaders of the various branches in the United States and identified their supporters.

Our investigations revealed that many of the persons connected with the Movement were fanatics. We would find that after being arrested in one area of the United States for violation of Customs laws, a member would turn up in another part of the country engaging in similar activities, despite the fact that he was on probation and was well aware of the consequences of his acts. We have developed information indicating that a Castro supporter openly threatened to shoot any Federal agent who endeavored to interfere with his activities. The dangerous nature of these individuals was such as to require notice to the field by SAC Letter in order that Agents would be in a position to protect themselves. All of this information indicating the fanaticism of the Castro supporters and the extent of their dedication to their cause was made available to State, [REDACTED] and other agencies so that they would be in a position to assess the seriousness of the problem. As early as October, 1956, we advised these agencies of alleged plans of a small group in Miami to leave the United States for Cuba with arms for the purpose of engaging in revolutionary activity against the Batista Government. It is noted that this was two months before the invasion of Cuba by Castro, which culminated in the overthrow of the Batista regime.

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With the invasion of Cuba in December, 1956, by Castro, the activities of the Movement in this country became bolder and more aggressive, particularly in the illegal shipment of arms and ammunition.

Despite the fact that the illegal shipment of arms is a matter within the primary jurisdiction of Customs, the Bureau went beyond jurisdictional lines and aggressively collected information pertaining to this activity, which was promptly furnished to Customs, State, [REDACTED] Agency and other interested agencies. This was possible because we followed the practice of investigating and, where warranted, interviewing every individual who came to our attention as having connections with Cuban activities either of a pro-Castro or pro-Batista nature. We found many of these persons were cooperative, claiming to have no grudge against the United States or interests against United States and frequently furnished data on Cuban activities. As a part of our informant coverage we developed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] as an informant for the FBI. This informant furnished accurate information concerning the [REDACTED]

In addition, the [REDACTED] for the Batista Government in Miami and New York regularly provided information, which was promptly passed on to all interested agencies.

During the past two years, we have disseminated over 225 items consisting of more than 1,475 pages of intelligence data relating to the July 26 Movement, its members, and its activities. Of course, all of this has gone to State Department and [REDACTED]

It is the position of the Bureau that in any assessment of the strength of the Castro movement and the sympathy for it which existed in the United States among the Cuban element, it would be impossible for anyone to analyze and read the material provided by the Bureau and not come to the definite realization that the July 26 Movement was widespread and extremely active in this country and presented a concrete threat to the Batista regime. Weighing these data in relation to the popular resentment here and abroad against the dictatorial regime of Batista, together with an assessment of the military and political

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(M) *strength of the opposing forces which must have been available to the State Department (provided, of course, [REDACTED] the U.S. military missions in Cuba and the U. S. Embassy there were functioning properly on the spot in acquiring such intelligence), it is difficult to conceive that any conclusion could be drawn other than that the Batista Government was an extremely shaky one to support.* b2

*In order to pursue more aggressively our investigative responsibility under the Neutrality Act (organizing a military expedition within the United States against a friendly country), the Department was requested at a conference on December 30, 1958, to explore the possibility of conferring seizure powers on the Bureau. By letter dated January 14, 1959, the Department advised that the Office of Legal Counsel was of the opinion that seizure powers could be conferred on the Bureau by executive order. In a memorandum dated January 16, 1959, we have recommended that the Department be requested to take appropriate steps to obtain these seizure powers for us. If this recommendation is approved and the Department is successful in having the necessary executive order issued, the Bureau will be in a stronger position to follow through investigations wherein the shipments of arms and ammunition become involved and, in doing this, further exploit the existing potential for the development of positive intelligence data for the benefit not only of the Bureau but also the Department of State and other agencies requiring such material in pursuance of their policy decisions and other responsibilities.*

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IV BUREAU LIAISON  
SITUATION IN CUBA

A. Current Arrangements

Our Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba, by letter dated January 13, 1959, advised the present state of Cuban law enforcement is extremely confused. The flight of Batista and the almost complete taking over of government functions by Castro followers has completely stripped the Office of the Legal Attache of police contacts. He summarized the situation as follows:

Cuban National Police - This is the principal police agency which covers all of Cuba. The Legal Attache had four contacts here prior to fall of Batista. Three have fled and whereabouts of the other is unknown. The present Chief of Police Efigenio Almejanias took office on January 8, 1959. He reportedly has no police experience and was a cab driver in Havana before joining Castro's forces in 1956. His three brothers were killed fighting against Batista. No contact has been made with him.

Department of Investigation of the Cuban National Police - This was the major contact point in the Cuban National Police. Its previous head, a contact, has fled Cuba as did his assistant. Two of his aides, who were contacts, are in hiding. Two other aides were detained when the Castro forces took over but were released after three days. Their functions are limited. [REDACTED] is a Castro adherent named [REDACTED]. He was formerly a bank employee and has in the past been connected in revolutionary activities with [REDACTED] who has a long history of communist activities. b7C

National Bureau of Identification - This organization maintains fingerprint and identification records and files and has been almost inactive since the revolution. Although employees under the Batista regime have evidently retained their positions, they have not been allowed to carry out their regular functions.

Cuban Bureau for the Repression of Communist Activities - This organization furnished data on communist activities in Cuba. Its director escaped with Batista and its assistant director is in hiding. The head of the investigations section is under arrest. The files of the organization are in possession of Ernesto Guevara, a Castro adherent, and there is every indication the files will be destroyed as the Communist Party is now operating openly.

~~SECRET~~

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Cuban Secret Police - This group mainly investigates counterfeiting and narcotics. [redacted] a contact, has fled Cuba and 200 of the former 240 agents of the group have been dismissed. b7C

Judicial Police - This organization investigates a variety of criminal matters for Cuban courts operating under the Ministry of Justice. Its [redacted] a contact, has been deposed. [redacted]

[redacted] He was a contact of Legal Attache from 1944 until 1952. He visited the Bureau in 1950. [redacted] Reportedly b7C

[redacted] and was a contact. There is no known derogatory data on either. Legal Attache has very little business with the Secret or Judicial Police.

Customs Police - This group investigates smuggling. [redacted] both contacts, no longer hold their positions. b7D

Cuban Bureau of Census - This group registers all Cuban voters. [redacted] has assisted in past by making available [redacted] Cuban Communist Party as has [redacted] b7D  
[redacted] of the organization. The latter has asked for retirement. Although [redacted] the Legal Attache has been confidentially advised that in the immediate future records of this Bureau will not be readily available to him in view of complaints that U. S. Government authorities have had access to the records in the past.

Militia Organization - This is a new police group organized since the revolution and composed of Castro elements. [redacted] whose father was killed in 1957, reportedly by Batista elements. [redacted] b7C  
[redacted] has been contacted in the past by Agents and was found to be an intelligent, honorable young man. [redacted]  
[redacted] This group is mainly concerned with the apprehension of informers who operated for Batista. It reportedly hopes to become the "FBI" of Cuba.

The present efforts of police agencies in Cuba are almost entirely directed toward the apprehension and prosecution of notorious supporters and informers of the Batista regime. The Legal Attache indicated that in his initial contact with police officials he intended to indicate that FBI contacts were strictly in the criminal field and to point out our ability to be of assistance on matters of a criminal nature.

~~SECRET~~



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The Director said he felt the Office of the Legal Attache in Cuba should not try and press for any contacts until a clearer picture develops. The Legal Attache was so instructed by cablegram on January 16, 1959.

At the present time the Office of the Legal Attache in Havana, Cuba, consists of the Legal Attache, two Assistant Legal Attaches and two clerical employees.

B. Rebel Resentment Against FBI in Cuba

"Chicago Tribune" issue January 10, 1959, carried an article dated January 9, 1959, at Havana, Cuba, prepared by "Chicago Tribune" press service under headline "Castro Chief Charges FBI Aided Batista." According to article, during news conference in Havana on January 9, 1959, Major Ernesto "Che" Guevara, described as one of Fidel Castro's "most trusted commanders," accused FBI of supplying Batista dictatorship with information enabling it to capture rebel arms shipments. Article reported that Guevara claimed reports found in files of Batista's Bureau for Repression of Communist Activities (BRAC) mentioned FBI as source of information. Reportedly, Guevara alleged reports to [redacted] listed FBI as source. but "FBI" was crossed out and "Confidential Informants" substituted. Guevara said that documents captured by rebel forces proved conclusively that BRAC was very close to FBI. b7C

Concerning charge we supplied Batista regime with information enabling it to capture rebel arms shipments, Bureau has not disseminated such information to Cuban authorities. In fact, investigation of such arms shipments is not within our jurisdiction but is responsibility of Customs. During course of our investigation regarding activities of pro-Castro movement in U. S. (aimed primarily at developing possible Registration Act violations), we did develop a considerable amount of information incidental to our investigation regarding alleged arms shipments on behalf of Cuban rebels. We disseminated such data to other interested U. S. intelligence agencies including Customs, State, [redacted] and in many instances, the military intelligence agencies. Moreover, we have, where the matter appeared to be of possible interest to the U. S. Embassy in Havana, furnished it to Legat, Havana, for local dissemination at the Embassy. It is conceivable that data of this type originating with FBI has been utilized by other U. S. agencies to keep Batista Government informed as to U. S. efforts to counteract anti-Batista activities in U. S. b2

~~SECRET~~

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In one instance, State Department specifically requested authority to furnish FBI information regarding rebel activities to Cuban authorities, as follows: During August, 1958, we furnished State and other agencies with information received by San Antonio Office from a source to the effect that anti-Batista Cuban exiles in U. S. planned to bomb Presidential Palace in Havana, utilizing plane disguised with U. S. Air Force markings. State Department requested authority to have U. S. Embassy in Havana relay information to Cuban Government in paraphrased form, describing it as "unconfirmed report" and not attributing it to FBI. We told State we had no objection to this action. Subsequent investigation by the Bureau of persons allegedly involved in this affair failed to substantiate original charge.

[REDACTED] b1  
[REDACTED] (S)  
Based on indications BRAC was being staffed primarily by political appointees and might be used by Batista regime for ulterior political purposes. Legat, Havana, on Bureau instructions, has been circumspect in dealings with BRAC. However, in line with our policy of cooperating with official security agencies of friendly foreign governments where such cooperation would not work to our detriment or endanger our sources, we have exchanged a limited amount of information with BRAC concerning communist activities. This cooperation has been aimed at strengthening our liaison position in the reciprocal acquisition of data of interest to us, as well as counteracting international communist activities.

[REDACTED] b7C/D

[REDACTED] Cuban officials were most appreciative of information furnished by Legat and pointed out that the Cuban investigative agencies had unsuccessfully endeavored to locate printing site of "Carta Semanal" for four years.

[REDACTED] b1 (S)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

(S) [REDACTED] Incident received considerable publicity in Cuban press and was a major setback to Cuban communist movement. At time information was furnished to [REDACTED], it was given in strict confidence and up to now there have been no indications, whatever, that [REDACTED] violated this confidence. It is noted [REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] b7C b7D

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V BACKGROUND - UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
CHRISTIAN A. HERTER

Christian A. Herter is Under Secretary of State and as such is chairman of the Operations Coordinating Board. The Operations Coordinating Board functions within the framework of the National Security Council and is responsible for coordinating the implementation of all National Security Council policies with the exception of those aspects which affect internal security.

He was born in Paris, France, in March, 1895. He received an A.B. degree cum laude from Harvard in 1915. He has received honorary LL.D. degrees from various colleges and universities in the United States. He became associated with the State Department in 1916 in the American Embassy in Berlin. Since that time he has served as Special Assistant, European Relief Works; Assistant to Secretary of Commerce, Hoover; Editor and Associate Editor of two publications; Representative from the State of Massachusetts; and Governor of Massachusetts from January, 1953, to January, 1957. He was appointed Under Secretary of State in 1957.

The Bureau first investigated Herter in 1942 for the Office for Emergency Management. All information was entirely favorable except for information furnished which was received from an informant who has furnished reliable information in the past to the effect that in 1938 Herter's name appeared on a membership list of the American Council of the Institute of Pacific Relations (IPR). The IPR has been cited by the Senate Judiciary Committee as a vehicle used by the communists to orientate American far eastern policies toward communist objectives. Members of the small core of officials and staff members who controlled the IPR were either communists or procommunists.

The investigation also revealed that in October, 1941, the "Daily Worker," defunct east coast communist newspaper, carried an item which listed, among others, Herter as serving on the Massachusetts Committee for Russian War Relief. (During this period the Committee included many prominent persons in the Boston area.)

The White House requested an up-to-date investigation of Mr. Herter in November, 1956. This investigation was entirely favorable except for information furnished by a confidential

**SECRET**

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informant who made available [REDACTED]

on August 11, 1954.

The informant indicated that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The  
SELF was originally an adjunct of the Southern Conference for  
Human Welfare prior to its demise in 1948. This latter organi-  
zation has been cited by the House Committee on Un-American  
Activities as a communist front. In the course of this latter  
investigation, several informants who were familiar with communist  
activities in the Massachusetts area were contacted and stated  
that Governor Herter and members of his family were unknown to  
them in communist circles. b7C D

Liaison Agent [REDACTED] has had occasion to  
contact Under Secretary of State Herter from time to time since  
his appointment. He has been extremely cooperative and their  
relations are excellent. b7C

In a Bureau antiracketeering investigation conducted in  
1957 concerning [REDACTED], an investigator of  
the Massachusetts Parole Board, indicated that [REDACTED] had a wide  
acquaintance with members of the State Legislature and was  
generally friendly with former Governor Herter and members of  
his staff. [REDACTED] has been variously described as active in  
horse race booking and after-hours liquor sales. He has a  
reputation as a fixer and a name dropper and is known to associate  
with other top hoodlums in the Boston area. b7C

**SECRET**

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VI IDENTITY OF BUREAU PERSONNEL ASSIGNED  
TO HAVANA

There are presently five Bureau employees assigned to Havana, Cuba, as follows:

Legal Attache:  
Assistant Legal Attache:  
Assistant Legal Attache:  
Stenographer:  
Stenographer:

James T. Haverty

[REDACTED]

b7c

- 30 -

~~SECRET~~

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET33 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐
- Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

- ☐
- Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

☒ Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of 109-HQ-12-210-394

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒
- The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

109-HQ-12-210-394

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X Deleted Page(s) X  
X No Duplication Fee X  
X for this page X  
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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont

DATE: 1/18/59

FROM :

1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - [REDACTED]  
1 - [REDACTED]  
1 - Mr. Wannall

Tolson	✓
Boardman	✓
Belmont	✓
Mohr	✓
Nease	✓
Parsons	✓
Rosen	✓
Tamm	✓
Trotter	✓
W.C. Sullivan	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holloman	✓
Gandy	✓

SUBJECT: CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION

In connection with my memorandum 1/17/59 prepared for use of Director in meeting with Under Secretary of State Herter on 1/19/59, Mr. Tolson requested further information.

1. Mr. Tolson inquired whether, as mentioned on page 9, [REDACTED] actually went to Cuba or whether she is going.

Answer:

Special Agent [REDACTED] New York Office (NYO), advised 1/18/59 that [REDACTED] departed New York City for Havana, Cuba, at 2:25 p.m., 1/18/59. Prior to leaving, [REDACTED] advised that on 1/16/59 she had spoken to [REDACTED] United States Department of State, and told him of her invitation to come to Cuba. [REDACTED] agreed with her that it would be advantageous for her to consult with the new Cuban Government and for her to go to Havana. [REDACTED] advised she is to be met in Havana [REDACTED] the Sugar Institute in Havana. She will also speak to President Manuel Urrutia and Dr. Antonio de la Carrera, secretary to President Urrutia. [REDACTED] and De la Carrera also want [REDACTED] to speak to Fidel Castro but she stated she will not go out of her way to speak to Castro as she desires to speak to only the civilian members of the new Cuban Government. [REDACTED] stressed she is going to Havana at the request of [REDACTED] and only as a friend of the Cuban people.

[REDACTED] stated that the Cuban Government was most pleased with the appointment of Phillip W. Bonsal as the new United States Ambassador to Cuba. She said that [REDACTED] on 1/16/59, had advised that the Cuban Government was at that time still hoping that [REDACTED] of the United States State Department would be appointed ambassador even if only on an interim basis because of [REDACTED] background, life in Cuba and general knowledge and understanding of Latin affairs.

REC- 66

[REDACTED] stated she has heard rumors, which are at present unsubstantiated, that former Cuban President Fulgencio Batista is attempting to determine how many supporters he can gather in an effort to overthrow the new government. [REDACTED] stated she has learned that a shipment of 2,000 M-1 rifles, purchased and paid for by the Cuban Government prior to 1/1/59, is now in Italy.

109-12-210

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B JAN 26 1959

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FEB

1959

memo to  
Belmont  
1/19/59  
SBD/ellw

3/11  
5.12

ALL INFO MUST BE CLASSIFIED



Memorandum from [REDACTED] to Mr. Belmont  
Re: Cuban Political Situation

b7C

According to [REDACTED] rumors indicate that Batista and his followers will attempt a coup in about four or five months as they feel the new government will be at its weakest point at that time. Above data from [REDACTED] furnished State Department 1-18-59. b7C

2. Mr. Tolson inquired whether [REDACTED] Havana Sugar Institute and member of new cabinet (mentioned on page 9), is identical or related to [REDACTED] also known as [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], mentioned on page 13 as subject of Registration Act case by Bureau. b7C

*Shouldn't this have been resolved before asked for info.*  
Answer:

Special Agent [REDACTED], NYC, advised 1/18/59 that [REDACTED] is identical with [REDACTED] has in the past referred to [REDACTED] as both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but New York investigation has indicated that [REDACTED] is the correct name. [REDACTED] has advised that [REDACTED] was in New York City but left during the early part of January, 1959, and returned to Cuba. b7C

3. With regard to [REDACTED] mentioned on page 13, Mr. Tolson inquired concerning our investigation of [REDACTED] and whether we had information which was not disseminated prior to the overthrow of the Cuban Government on 1/1/59. b7C

Answer:

On 10/30/58 we received from the State Department a copy of a telegram from the United States Embassy, Havana, dated 10/29/58 indicating the Francisco Sugar Company (Cuba) had been instructed by representatives of the July 26th Movement to make a 15 cents per day payment on 1958 crops to [REDACTED] in Miami. The telegram indicated the Company would refuse to pay but suggested the Justice Department might be interested in the collection of money in Miami by [REDACTED]. Bureau airtel 11/4/58 instructed Miami to immediately identify [REDACTED] to determine whether his activities brought him within purview of Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (acting within United States as agent of foreign principal). b7C

Internal Security Division of Department, by letter 11/10/58, received 11/12/58, forwarded copy of letter to Internal Security Division from State Department dated 11/6/58 enclosing memorandum of conversation 10/25/58 between [REDACTED] of State Department and [REDACTED] Francisco Sugar Company, New York. Therein [REDACTED] indicated his company in Cuba was being harassed by Castro rebels (Castro had control of rich sugar crop areas of Cuba) and that b7C

Memorandum from [REDACTED] to Mr. Belmont  
Re: Cuban Political Situation

b7C

[REDACTED] had visited various companies in New York asking tribute for rebels. [REDACTED] said position should be not to pay tribute and that attitude toward rebels had been toughened. State Department letter indicated [REDACTED] was possibly identical with [REDACTED] mentioned in telegram, copy of which they had previously sent Internal Security Division. b7C

Neither State Department nor Internal Security Division in letters mentioned above requested investigation but we had already started. Bureau letter 11/20/58 sent this information to New York and Miami, instructing New York to determine if [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were identical. b7C

Internal Security Division, by letter 11/25/58 to Bureau, referred to data previously transmitted and requested Registration Act investigation. Bureau letter 12/2/58 advised New York and Miami of request, instructed New York to determine whether [REDACTED] soliciting money for Cuban rebels and whether witnesses available to testify and instructed prompt submission of report. b7C

New York, by airtel 12/12/58, forwarded memorandum in connection with another matter which indicated, among other things, that [REDACTED] was interviewed 12/9/58. [REDACTED] indicated various sugar companies under his control had on 12/4/58 paid \$361,039.97 to [REDACTED] in New York in response to Castro demands for payment of 15 cents per bag for production of raw sugar in 1958 in hope this would stop damages to company properties in Cuba. This memorandum was disseminated to Internal Security Division, State Department, Customs and military agencies on 12/19/58. b7C

Why did it take from Dec 29 to Jan 2 for report?  
New York Office submitted report 12/22/58, received at Bureau 12/29/58 and in this Division 1/2/59. This report reflected complete interview with [REDACTED] the Francisco Sugar Company and [REDACTED] American Sugar Refining Company. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] furnished details of payment of money to [REDACTED] but had no information as to whereabouts of [REDACTED] except that he was possibly in Miami. [REDACTED] said his company had made no payments to Cuban rebels. b7C

Above New York report had date discrepancy in details and synopsis. Bureau airtel 1/9/59 asked clarification and New York airtel 1/12/59 furnished corrective data. Copy of report sent

A lapse of one week in Belmont's Div - why?

Memorandum from [REDACTED] to Mr. Belmont  
Re: Cuban Political Situation

b7C

[REDACTED] b2

4. Mr. Tolson inquired whether Bureau informant mentioned on page 21 went to Cuba and took job with Castro government or whether he is going.

Answer:

This refers to Miami informant [REDACTED] b2/b7D  
Bureau teletype to Miami, 1/12/59, instructed that informant be told question of going to Cuba and accepting position is matter of personal decision and if he goes it should be clear he is not going on behalf of Bureau. Miami was instructed that if he went and accepted position to submit recommendations as to use. Assistant Special Agent in Charge Allan Gillies, Miami Office, advised on 1/18/59 that informant has not returned to Cuba and does not intend to accept position in Cuban Government on his own volition but is willing to do so. b7C

[REDACTED]

A separate memorandum is being submitted regarding the analysis of the Fulton Lewis, Jr., column mentioned on page 12a of our prior memorandum.

ACTION:

For information.

oruu Q

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont

DATE: January 19, 1959

FROM : [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-23-99 BY 60267 NLS/DEAT

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Nease	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____

SUBJECT: CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION

Concerning my memorandum 1/17/59 prepared for Director's use in meeting with Under Secretary of State Herter and my memorandum 1/18/59 supplying further information regarding prior data furnished, the Director asked several questions, answers to which are set forth herein.

Director asked that analysis and file review of Fulton Lewis, Jr. column be expedited. This was completed over weekend and delivered to Director's office at 9 a.m., Monday, 1/19/59. Project entailed review of about 1,500 references and required over 115 hours of Special Agent time and 30 hours of clerical time in this Section alone on Saturday and Sunday, as well as extensive services of Records Branch personnel.

Director inquired as to just when receipts were received by sugar companies in New York for monies given to [REDACTED] on 12/4/58. These receipts were dated 12/7/58. [REDACTED] who supplied this information on 12/9/58, did not say when they were actually received.

Director instructed that we expedite getting some ruling from Internal Security Division on [REDACTED] case. We have sent through today for approval letter to Internal Security Division, transmitting report, calling to attention his position as [REDACTED] Sugar Institute and member of Cabinet in Cuba and asking whether further investigation desired in view of his reported position. This will be hand delivered and Internal Security Division will be pressed for expedite ruling.

Director inquired, in reading my memorandum of 1/16/59, why it took from 11/25/58, when we initiated investigation in [REDACTED] case, until 1/16/59 to send report to State Department and [REDACTED] and until 1/19/59 to send report to Department when [REDACTED] appeared and demanded money.

109-12-210

- 1 - Belmont
- 1 - Nease

1 - [REDACTED]  
1 - [REDACTED]  
SBD:bbr  
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-23-99 BY 60267 NLS/DEAT

JAN 26 1959

60 FEB 2 1959

588 b7C

Memorandum for A. H. Belmont  
Re: Cuban Political Situation

on 12/4/58. As mentioned in my memorandum 1/18/59, we actually instructed that investigation of [REDACTED] be conducted on 11/4/58, on our own initiative, prior to receipt of Department's request 11/25/58. Initial results of key interview with [REDACTED] on 12/9/58 reflecting money demand and payment on 12/4/58 were submitted by New York airtel 12/12/58, received 12/13/58. Buairtel 12/16/58 requested clarification of other data not directly related to this interview. [New York airtel 12/18/58 clarified and memorandum disseminated to Department, State Department and [REDACTED] 12/19/58.] Thus, the real key data (S) (u) b7C b2 here was in the hands of these agencies. New York report 12/22/58 containing complete results of [REDACTED] interview and other interviews was received at Bureau 12/29/58 and in this Division 1/2/59, day after Batista fell. Regarding delay in disseminating report there were several factors. Report was reviewed and required Bureau airtel to New York 1/9/59 to clarify date discrepancy in details and synopsis and New York airtel 1/12/59 furnished corrective data. Director asked why there was a lapse of 1 week in Division (January 2-9) from date of receipt to date of request for clarification. This report hit Section handling Cuban matters one day after Batista fled and Castro forces assumed control. Voluminous intelligence data was being received requiring telephonic and confirming letter dissemination on an urgent basis regarding current revolutionary situation. [REDACTED] b2

While we threw manpower into this situation to keep on top of daily developments nevertheless in this case, recognizing that Castro man was here and collecting money and in light of subsequent developments we fully recognize this case should have been more aggressively pushed and the dissemination delays avoided. That we did not do so is indeed regretted and factors outlined are in no sense intended as an excuse.

Director also asked why it took from 12/29/58 to 1/2/59 for above report to reach Belmont after receipt in Bureau. Records Branch stamp on report indicates it was received sometime during day of 12/29/58. It was completely

Memorandum for A. H. Belmont  
Re: Cuban Political Situation

processed and forwarded to this Division where received on third workday after receipt (holiday, 1/1/59, intervening). Records Branch advises that with few exceptions mail is being completely processed through that Branch in two days. This took slightly longer since leave schedule in Records Branch was heavier than usual and date of receipt, 12/29/58, was first workday after 4-day holiday and mail was unusually heavy.

*Certainly a matter such as this should have been expedited.*  
Director raised question of whether we shouldn't have resolved whether [redacted] Sugar Institute and member of new Cabinet, might be identical with or related to [redacted] before Director asked for it.

We have determined they are identical and we should have resolved this before presenting data. Frankly, we did not recognize possibility in view of common name [redacted] but facts pointed to possibility, we had data available to Director and fact that we did not recognize and resolve this is sincerely regretted.

ACTION:

As reflected in previous data supplied to the Director we have concentrated on the Cuban situation and there has been voluminous data developed by Bureau and disseminated to other agencies. We have made a conscientious effort to meet responsibilities of Bureau and sincerely regret it was necessary for the Director to raise questions and inquire into delays.

*1. We certainly did not spend the pressure on this entire matter, we should have in view of its vital importance.*

*2. What in memo of Jan. 17 I sense a strong trend to undo the communist charges of Castro's movement. Eliminating all allegations of Batista the memo seems to substantially establish that [redacted]*

*[redacted] are all communists & all top leaders in Castro movement. What more is needed to prove [redacted]*

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont *AKB*

DATE: January 19, 1959

FROM : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION

Tolson ✓  
Boardman ✓  
Belmont ✓  
Mohr ✓  
Nease ✓  
Parsons ✓  
Rosen ✓  
Tamm ✓  
Trotter ✓  
W.C. Sullivan ✓  
Tele. Room ✓  
Holloman ✓  
Gandy ✓

Memorandum 1/19/59 [REDACTED] to Belmont transmitted five enclosures containing information from Bureau files on leaders in the Fidel Castro movement in Cuba who were named in [REDACTED] Fulton Lewis' advance release for 1/16/59 as having communist backgrounds or connections. These leaders as named by Lewis were Fidel Castro, himself. [REDACTED] b7C

and his chief of personnel, Ernesto (Che) Guevara. The Director noted on this memorandum, "What do we know re Cienfuegos?"

This individual is Camilo Cienfuegos, who was mentioned in memorandum [REDACTED] to Belmont 1/17/59 as one of two Castro leaders reported by our Legal Attache in Havana as having arrived in that city to take control following the Batista Government collapse the previous day. The other Castro leader was Ernesto (Che) Guevara. It was noted that in November, 1956, our Legal Attache furnished information from Cuban sources to the effect that Cienfuegos was a communist agitator and had been arrested in the past as a member of the Communist Party. Based on this information from the Legal Attache, on November 16, 1956, we instituted an active investigation to determine the nature of Cienfuegos' activities and contacts during a trip he had made to the United States from March to September, 1956. We developed no information indicating he had engaged in communist activities while here or had any connections with the Communist Party of the United States. All information received by our Legal Attache as well as the results of our investigation of Cienfuegos was disseminated to State, [REDACTED] and other interested agencies. b7C

Attached is a memorandum on Cienfuegos containing all pertinent information on him from Bureau files. b2 b7C

ACTION:

This is in response to the Director's question.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/30/99 BY 60267MS/BME/KGB

60267 NBS/BLK/BLK 9-23-99

Enclosure

1 - Belmont

1 - [REDACTED]

1 - [REDACTED]

WRW:bbr

(4)

51

ENCLOSURE

11

REC-15

109-12-210-397  
18 JAN 26 1959

It seems pretty well substantiated that Cienfuegos is a Communist  
L.V.  
109-12-210

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

~~SECRET~~

**CAMILO CIENFUEGOS y GORRIARIAN, also known as  
Camilo Cienfuegos**

We initiated an investigation of Cienfuegos on November 16, 1956, based on information furnished the Bureau by our Legal Attache, Havana. This information was to the effect that [REDACTED] a contact of our Havana Office, advised that the subject was a known communist agitator who had worked in the past as a member of the "shock troops" of the Cuban Communist Party; had been granted a visa; and was residing in the United States with his wife, an American citizen. b7C

[REDACTED], advised our Legal Attache in Havana that subject had been arrested and fingerprinted as a member of the Communist Party on January 28, 1956, and was listed as being Director of the Frente Popular, a Communist Party front organization in Havana. [REDACTED] reported that at the time of the subject's arrest a large quantity of communist propaganda and literature was found in his home.

Our investigation disclosed that Cienfuegos was born on February 6, 1932, and was a Cuban citizen. He entered the United States on April 1, 1953, at Miami, Florida, on a 30-day visitor's visa; was apprehended by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), San Francisco, California, on April 29, 1955; and determined to be illegally in the United States. When apprehended by INS, he had a Social Security card in his possession indicating he had identified himself as Ramon Ruiz to the Social Security office. He was deported on June 4, 1955. [REDACTED] his fiancée residing in San Francisco, intervened in his behalf, went to Cuba and married Cienfuegos on September 1, 1955. Upon returning to the United States, she pleaded that her husband's absence caused her unusual hardship. Cienfuegos was legally admitted to the United States on March 25, 1956. b7C

Inquiries at San Francisco indicated that Cienfuegos had departed for Mexico and possibly Cuba in September, 1956. On June 21, 1957, and September 20, 1957, our Legal Attache, Havana, furnished information indicating that Cienfuegos was with the forces of Fidel Castro in Cuba.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

~~SECRET~~  
ENCLOSURE

3/30/99  
CLASSIFIED BY 60267MS/OT/KB  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X  
60267MS/OT/KB 9-23-99



~~SECRET~~

RE: CAMILO CIENFUEGOS y GORRIARIAN

On October 24, 1957, the case was placed in a pending inactive status by San Francisco in view of the fact that inquiries had reflected the subject was still in Cuba. The case was closed on January 17, 1958, when additional inquiries reflected that he was still outside the United States.

No information was developed indicating Cienfuegos was connected with the Communist Party in the United States. Our information was disseminated to State, [REDACTED] INS, and the Department.

b2

[REDACTED] (S)

b1

[REDACTED] (S)

b1

The Department of the Army, on December 23, 1958, advised that there was evidence that Cienfuegos may be a communist or an "extreme leftist." (S)(u)

~~SECRET~~

1 -  
1 -  
1 -

b7c

January 21, 1959

BY COURIER SERVICE

3/30/99 60267 NLS/DC/OK 9-23-99

Honorable Christian A. Herter  
Under Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington 25, D. C.

29065

My dear Mr. Herter:

In connection with our discussion on January 19, 1959, regarding the Cuban situation and particularly concerning information which we have been receiving from [REDACTED] I thought you would be interested in knowing she called our New York Office from Havana, Cuba, on January 19, 1959, and stated she had spent eight hours at the Sugar Institute and two and one-half hours at the Presidential Palace but had not been in contact with the American Embassy in Havana. It was stated she had conferred with [REDACTED] the Sugar Institute [REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED] and many others. She stated the situation in Cuba is chaotic and the government is desperate for assistance and guidance from the United States.

According to [REDACTED] United States Ambassador Philip W. Benson will be warmly and sincerely welcomed in Cuba as the Cubans are well pleased over his selection. She added Dr. Manuel Urrutia is a mere "figurehead" in the present Cuban Government and has no power other than to reorganize the judicial system. [REDACTED] added that one [REDACTED] whose full name she was unable to furnish, formerly in charge of the Sugar Institute, was jailed on January 19, 1959.

JAN 21 1 47 PM '59  
REC'D-READING ROOM  
F B I

b7c

HWL:tw:dmd  
(5)

REC-30  
JAN 22 1959  
FBI

109-12-210-398

25 JAN 22 1959

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Clayton \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_  
W. B. Sullivan

67 JAN 28 1959

MAIL ROOM ☐

29066

Honorable Christian A. Herter

Continuing, [redacted] stated that the Cuban Government "desires the United States to make a higher reallocation of sugar" and if Ambassador Bensch on arrival in Cuba would offer temporary financial aid to the new government, it would be a great gesture toward improving United States - Cuba relations. According to [redacted] the Cuban Government will not recognize Russia but it is deeply concerned over the communist threat and she further stated Cuba is desperately in need of technical assistance in the fields of education and agriculture. b7C

[redacted] added that the military trials are temporarily being held up and when they are resumed they will be open to the public and held in Havana and the defendants will have legal counsel. She stated all persons contacted by her requested that she speak with Fidel Castro, which she agreed to do although she does not actually desire to speak with him and added that he is at present in Pinar del Rio. b7C

[redacted] also stated she had an appointment to speak with Commandant Camilo Cienfuegos at Camp Columbia on January 20, 1959. She added that the Cuban Government is bitter "toward the United States military missions" as it is felt they were too close to Batista and stated that if the individuals in charge of the United States military missions are not recalled soon the new Cuban Government will ask that they leave. According to [redacted] former American Ambassador Earl H. T. Smith paid his respects at the palace on January 19, 1959, prior to departing from Cuba, at which time he was rudely treated and afforded only three minutes to pay his respects inasmuch as he was disliked by the Cuban people. b7C

**Honorable Christian A. Herter**

~~SECRET~~

29067

[redacted] added that she has been warmly received by the Cubans and her opinions on many problems and questions are constantly being sought. She also stated that the Castro forces desire close relations with the United States but that, due to things they did in the United States while trying to overthrow the Government of Batista, they are ashamed to ask the United States for aid.

b7C

I have made this information available to the Honorable Richard M. Nixon; the Attorney General; the Office of Security, Department of State; the [redacted] the Department of the Army; the Department of the Navy; and the Department of the Air Force.

b2

**Sincerely yours,**

J. Edgar Hoover

*and*

Routing Slip  
FD-4 (Rev. 6-14-56)

Date 1/22/59

To

☒ Director

FILE # .....

Att. **FOREIGN LIAISON**

☐ SAC ..... Title .....

☐ ASAC .....

☐ Supv. ....

☐ Agent .....

☐ SE .....

☐ CC .....

☐ Steno .....

☐ Clerk .....

**ACTION DESIRED**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge   | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare lead cards     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assign ..... Reassign .....                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare tickler        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bring file  | <input type="checkbox"/> Recharge serials       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call me   | <input type="checkbox"/> Return assignment card |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Correct   | <input type="checkbox"/> Return file            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deadline .....  | <input type="checkbox"/> Return serials         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deadline passed   | <input type="checkbox"/> Search and return      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delinquent  | <input type="checkbox"/> See me                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expedite  | <input type="checkbox"/> Send Serials .....     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> File  | to .....  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Initial & return  | <input type="checkbox"/> Submit new charge-out  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leads need attention                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Submit report by ..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open Case   | <input type="checkbox"/> Type                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Return with explanation or notation as to action taken. |   |

EMBASSY WEEKA #3, 1/20/59

☐ See reverse side

**SAC** *James P. Hareedy*  
**LEGAT**  
Office **HAVANA**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/30/99 BY 60267MS/BCE/18P

60267 MS/BCE/18K 9-23-99

**67 FEB 2 - 1959**

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

110 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (d)(5)

☐ (b)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☐ (j)(2)

☐ (b)(3)

☐ (b)(7)(C)

☐ (k)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(D)

☐ (k)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(E)

☐ (k)(3)

☐ (b)(7)(F)

☐ (k)(4)

☐ (b)(4)

☐ (b)(8)

☐ (k)(5)

☐ (b)(5)

☐ (b)(9)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (b)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

109-48-12-210-Non-recorded document dated 1-20-59, 399  
and Non-recorded document dated 1-19-59

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT *abw*

DATE: January 21, 1959

FROM : [REDACTED] *abw*

cc Mr. Belmont

SUBJECT: CUBAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES  
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

ASAC Schmit, NYO, advised at approximately 11:30<sup>A.M.</sup>, 1-21-59 that [REDACTED] the Bureau of Special Services, New York City Police Department, had advised the NYO this morning that a group of Cubans in NYC are going to picket the United Nations Headquarters between 4:00 and 5:30 PM on the afternoon of 1-21-59. [REDACTED] stated that the picketing was to be under the direction of [REDACTED] ASAC Schmit advised that [REDACTED] was a member of the July 26 Movement in NYC.

ACTION:

The above information was telephonically furnished to [REDACTED] of the State Department by [REDACTED] and will be confirmed in writing.

DEM:td (5)

✓  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/30/99 BY 60267 NLS/BCE/PK 92399

REC-7

23 JAN 26 1959

EX-128

68 JAN 29 1959

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

3 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

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|--|---|---------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(1) | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(A)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (d)(5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(2)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(B)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (j)(2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(3)            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(C) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(1) |
| _____                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(D)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(2) |
| _____                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(E)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(3) |
| _____                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(F)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(4) |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(5)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(9)               | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(6)            |   | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(7) |

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
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☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
109-48-12-210-Non-recorded, document dated 1-23-59.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 20 1959

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 3/30/99 BY 60267NLS/BC/PRK 92399

URGENT 1-20-59 1-22 AM GPU

TO DIRECTOR 2

FROM SAC NEW YORK 3P

CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES, FPM DASH CUBA. [REDACTED]

TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED FROM HAVANA, CUBA, AT TEN TEN PM

INSTANT THAT SHE SPENT EIGHT HOURS AT SUGAR INSTITUTE AND TWO AND A  
HALF HOURS AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. SHE HAS NOT BEEN IN CONTACT WITH  
US EMBASSY HAVANA. AMONG PEOPLE SHE SPOKE WITH, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SUGAR INSTITUTE, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND MANY OTHERS. [REDACTED] ADVISED SITUATION IN  
CUBA CHAOTIC AND GOVERNMENT IS DESPERATE FOR ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE  
OF US. [REDACTED] FURNISHED FOLLOWING, US AMBASSADOR PHILIP W. BONSAI  
WILL BE WARMLY AND SINCERELY WELCOMED AS CUBANS ARE WELL PLEASED WITH  
CHOICE OF BONSAI. DR. MANUEL URRUTIA IS MERE FIGURE HEAD, HAS NO POWER  
AND ONLY JOB IS TO REORGANIZE THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM. FNU [REDACTED] WHO WAS  
IN CHARGE OF SUGAR INSTITUTE WAS JAILED THIS DATE. CUBA DESIRES US TO  
MAKE HIGHER RE-ALLOCATION OF SUGAR, AND IF AMBASSADOR BONSAI WILL COME

END PAGE ONE

67 JAN 28 1959

NOT RECORDED  
184 JAN 23 1959

109-HA-12-210, Non-recorded, document dated 1-20-59

PAGE TWO

CUBA AND MAKE OFFER OF TEMPORARY FINANCIAL AID TO NEW GOVERNMENT IT  
WILL BE GREATEST GESTURE TO IMPROVE US DASH CUBA RELATIONS. <sup>According to me</sup> CUBAN  
GOVERNMENT WILL NOT RECOGNIZE RUSSIA BUT ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER  
COMMUNIST THREAT. CUBA DESPERATELY NEEDS TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS IN FIELDS  
OF EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE. <sup>#</sup> THE MILITARY TRIALS ARE TEMPORARILY  
HELD UP AND WHEN RESUMED, WILL BE OPEN TO PUBLIC, HELD IN HAVANA AND  
DEFENDENTS WILL HAVE LEGAL COUNSEL. ALL <sup>rush call to me</sup> ASKED [REDACTED] TO SPEAK  
WITH FIDEL CASTRO, WHICH SHE SAID SHE WOULD DO, BUT DOES NOT REALLY  
DESIRE TO. [REDACTED] HAS APPOINTMENT TO SPEAK WITH COMMANDANT  
CAMILO CIENFUEGOS AT CAMP COLUMBIA ON ONE DASH TWO ZERO DASH FIVE  
NINE. <sup>9</sup> CASTRO AT PRESENT, IS IN PINAR DEL RIO. [REDACTED] ADVISED  
CUBAN GOVERNMENT IS BITTER TOWARD US MILITARY MISSIONS AS THEY FEEL THEY  
WERE TOO CLOSE TO BATISTA. IF THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF US MILITARY  
MISSIONS ARE NOT RECALLED SOON, THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL ASK THEM TO  
LEAVE. [REDACTED] ADVISED FORMER AMBASSADOR EARL <sup>F</sup>T. SMITH PAID HIS  
RESPECTS AT THE PALACE THIS DATE PRIOR TO LEAVING CUBA AND WAS RUDELY  
TREATED AND GIVEN ONLY THREE MINUTES TO PAY HIS RESPECTS AS HE  
WAS SO MUCH DISLIKED BY THE CUBAN PEOPLE. [REDACTED] STATED SHE WAS  
END PAGE TWO

b7c

PAGE THREE

WARMLY RECEIVED BY THE CUBANS AND HER OPINION ON MANY PROBLEMS AND  
QUESTIONS ARE CONSTANTLY BEING SOUGHT. [REDACTED] ADVISED THE CUBANS <sup>Caribbean</sup>  
WANT CLOSE RELATIONS WITH US BUT FEEL "THAT DUE TO THINGS THEY DID IN  
US WHILE TRYING TO OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT OF BATISTA THEY ARE ASHAMED  
TO ASK THE US FOR AID." BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF FURTHER INFO  
AS RECEIVED FROM [REDACTED] AND OTHER SOURCES. b7C

END AND ACK PLS

NY R 2 WA ELR

9 A.M. 1/20/59

Info orally to

[REDACTED] State

AKB

b7C

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE January 16, 1959

FROM : Mr. R. R. Rusk

CLASSIFIED BY 60267MS/BCE/KK  
DECLASSIFY ON: CSX 1SUBJECT: DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION TO  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

On January 16, 1959, while [redacted] of the Liaison Section was at the Department of State, he conferred with Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey, Director, Office of Security, and his Deputy, Mr. Otto Otepka. [redacted] was advised confidentially that the Department of State is embarrassed as a result of the Cuban situation in that they did not know that the Batista Government was to be thrown out on January 1, 1959. [redacted]

[redacted] In an attempt to find out the reason for the lack of knowledge apparently some of the top State officials felt that they were not briefed on the Cuban situation as they should have been during the past several months. Mr. Bailey advised that in an attempt to prevent the reoccurrence of this situation as it may affect Cuba or some other country, he has been instructed to send all material his security office receives from other Government agencies including the FBI to the Office of Intelligence Resources and Coordination. The Director of this office is A. Sidney Buford. Mr. Buford's office comes under Mr. Hugh S. Cummings, Jr., the Director of Intelligence and Research.

Mr. Bailey advised that during November, 1958, the Bureau sent his office over 1600 items, in December, over 1400 items, and based on the receipts to date for January they will receive close to 2000 items. Mr. Bailey feels that when this flood of paper hits the Office of Intelligence Resources and Coordination, they will soon revert back to the old system of having the security office furnish the items to the interested areas within State. Mr. Bailey further advised that the duty of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research is to handle positive foreign intelligence and does not deal with domestic intelligence which for the most part is the type of information the Bureau furnishes to State.

The above change is to take effect January 16, 1959. No change is necessary in the Bureau's handling of its dissemination to State inasmuch as this change is purely an administrative matter within State.

ACTION For information

NOT RECORDED

JAN 23 1959

OHB:jaw;jlk (9)

1 - Mr. Belmont

1 - Mr. Branigan

1 - Mr. Baumgardner

1 - [redacted] Liaison Section

JAN 23 1959

INT. SEC.

LIAISON

109-HQ-12-210-Non-recorded document dated 1-16-59

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 62-39749-8431

DECODED COP

Tolson ✓  
 Belmont ✓  
 Mohr ✓  
 Nease ✓  
 Parsons ✓  
 Rosen ✓  
 Tamm ✓  
 Trotter ✓  
 W.C. Sullivan ✓  
 Tele. Room ✓  
 Holloman ✓  
 Gandy ✓

☐ Airgram

☒ Cablegram

URGENT

1-23-59

60267NS/BCE/RK 9-3089  
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 3/30/99 BY 60267NS/BCE/1875

TO DIRECTOR

FROM LEGAT, HAVANA

NO. 596

CUBAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. CASTRO IN FIVE HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE  
 YESTERDAY CLAIMED MONOPOLISTIC UNITED STATES PRESS WIRE SERVICES  
 NOT TELLING TRUTH RE NECESSITY FOR EXECUTIONS. CLAIMED WAS NOT  
 A COMMUNIST BUT WANTED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE FOR  
 CUBA. CONDEMNED SOME AMERICAN BIG BUSINESS INTERESTS ESPECIALLY  
 UNITED FRUIT COMPANY STATING HAD NOT PAID TAXES TO REBELS WHEN  
 REBELS IN CONTROL OF ORIENTE PROVINCE. STATED COULD NOT UNDER-  
 STAND WHY MILITARY MISSIONS SHOULD ALWAYS COME FROM UNITED  
 STATES AND THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ONE FROM VENEZUELA. EVI-  
 DENT FROM PRESS COMMENTS ON CASTRO'S REMARKS THAT THERE IS SOME  
 SELF - IMPOSED CUBAN PRESS CENSORSHIP. TRIALS OF QUOTE "WAR  
 CRIMINALS" UNQUOTE STARTED HAVANA YESTERDAY. HELD AT SPORTS  
 COLESEUM. WITNESSED BY 17,000 PERSONS WITH FULL RADIO AND TELE-  
 VISION COVERAGE. DEFENDANT, AN ARMY MAJOR, CONFRONTED WITH  
 OVER 50 WITNESSES MOST OF WHOM COULD FURNISH ONLY HEARSAY EVI-  
 DENCE. HE ADMITTED SOME KILLINGS BUT STATED ALL DONE IN LINE  
 OF DUTY. TRIAL LASTED 8 HOURS. DEFENDANT SENTENCED TO BE SHOT  
 AFTER 3 HOUR DELIBERATION. BELIEF IS THAT CONDEMNATION ON PART  
 OF WORLD PRESS AGAINST EXECUTIONS HAS SLOWED SOME. CASTRO  
 CONTINUES TO EXPRESS ANTI AMERICAN AND NATIONALISTIC SENTIMENTS.  
 NO PUBLIC CRITICISM HERE OF EXECUTIONS. GOVERNMENT OFFICES  
 CONTINUE DISORGANIZED DUE TO COMPLETE TURNOVER IN PERSONNEL AND

REC- 92

66 JAN 29 1959

JAN 27 1959

127-12-210-401  
 cc: Mr. Roach  
 cc: Mr. Belmont  
 cut 67C

**DECODED COPY**

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Airgram**

☒ **Cablegram**

PAGE TWO      HAVANA      NR: 596

HESITANCY OF OFFICIALS TO MAKE DECISIONS WITHOUT CONFIRMATION  
FROM CASTRO.

JAMES T. HAVERTY

RECEIVED:      1-23-59      5:58 PM      ECD

The Director

January 20, 1959

A. H. Belmont

**CHRISTIAN A. HERTER**  
**UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE**

At 5:30 p.m., today, [REDACTED] the Liaison Section briefed Under Secretary of State Herter concerning the information furnished to the New York Office today involving Haiti. Mr. Herter asked [REDACTED] to express his appreciation to the Director for furnishing this information to him so promptly and further asked that the Director be advised that he deeply appreciates the Director's taking his valuable time as he did on January 19, 1959, to brief Mr. Herter on the Cuban situation. Mr. Herter was advised that this would be done.

**ACTION:**

For information.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Liaison
- 1 - [REDACTED]

1 107-12-210-  
NOT RECORDED  
176 JAN 28 1959

OHB:tw  
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/30/99 BY 60267 NLS/BCE/KRM  
60267 NLS/BCE/RK 9-23-99

66 JAN 29 1959

MAIL ROOM ☐

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Clayton \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_  
W. C. Sullivan

Political Matters Cuba

b7c  
101943-15  
b7c  
ORIGINAL FILED IN 62

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: January 20, 1959

FROM : G. A. NEASE

SUBJECT: Political Matters - Cuba

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

With regard to the pink memorandum from the Director's Office today concerning former Legal Attache John Wachtel, Havana, having a building pass admitting him into headquarters for Cuban Intelligence, [redacted] at 6:30 PM tonight advised [redacted] U. S. News and World Report that we had heard his man [redacted] had information that five Americans had such passes from Cuban Intelligence and we wanted him to know that all that this amounted to was a building pass into Cuban Intelligence quarters. [redacted] stated this was perfectly normal and would be expected of American Embassy personnel to have entree into areas of the government in whose country they were serving.

[redacted] made a quick check and called [redacted] back advising that his man, [redacted] had turned the story down, that what had happened was that a Cuban newspaperman had planted the story that there were five American spies for Batista who had entree into Cuban Intelligence and that [redacted] had checked it out, found it to be a phony planted story and, accordingly, had turned it down. Mr. Belmont has been so advised.

1 - Mr. Belmont

JJM:ejp  
(3)

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109-12-210-402

24 JAN 27 1959

PERS. FILES

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Mr. Tolson  
 Mr. Belmont  
 Mr. Mohr  
 Mr. DeLoach  
 Mr. Casper  
 Mr. Callahan  
 Mr. Conrad  
 Mr. Felt  
 Mr. Gale  
 Mr. Rosen  
 Mr. Sullivan  
 Mr. Tavel  
 Mr. Trotter  
 Tele. Room  
 Mr. Holloman  
 Miss Gandy

*It is significant  
 specific.*

UPI -70

(CUBA)

HAVANA--FIDEL CASTRO HAS THROWN OUT THE COMMUNISTS WHO INFILTRATED THE CUBAN LABOR UNION LEADERSHIP IN THE HECTIC FIRST DAYS OF THE REBEL VICTORY, IT WAS DISCLOSED TODAY.

THE REBEL CHIEFTAIN FORCED A REORGANIZATION OF THE CUBAN NATIONAL LABOR FRONT AND WORKERS CONFEDERATION BEFORE HE DEPARTED YESTERDAY ON A WEEKEND TRIP TO CARACAS, VENEZUELA. FIVE REDS WERE REPORTED FORCED OUT OF THE LABOR LEADERSHIP.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT TOOK STEPS TO TONE DOWN THE SPECTACLE OF THE HAVANA "WAR CRIMES" TRIALS. SOURCES PREDICTED THAT NO MORE TRIALS WOULD BE HELD IN THE BIG SPORTS STADIUM WHERE BATISTA ARMY MAJ. JESUS SOSA BLANCO WAS CONDEMNED EARLY YESTERDAY AFTER A 12-HOUR AND 19 MINUTE TRIAL WITNESSED BY 30,000 JEERING SPECTATORS.

THE TRIALS OF TWO OTHER TOP BATISTA MENCHMEN, [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] POSTPONED UNTIL MONDAY, WERE EXPECTED TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE SPORTS STADIUM TO THE PRIVACY OF CABANA FORTRESS.

MAJ. SOSA BLANCO'S APPEAL FROM HIS DEATH SENTENCE WAS FORMALLY RECEIVED BY THE SUPERIOR WAR COURT, IT WAS REPORTED. IT WAS TO BE ACTED UPON EARLY NEXT WEEK.

THE CONDEMNED MAN, SAID IN HIS CELL AT CABANA FORTRESS THAT HE HOPED HIS TRIAL--WHICH HE HAD COMPARED TO THE MARTYRDOM OF CHRISTIANS IN THE ROMAN COLISEUM--WOULD BE THE LAST OF ITS KIND IN CUBA.

"I HAVE NEVER BEEN AFRAID OF DEATH," SOSA BLANCO SAID. "NOW THAT I HAVE BEEN CONFERRED (BY A PRIEST) I FEAR DEATH EVEN LESS.

"IF MY DEATH MEANS THE HAPPINESS OF CUBA, LET THEM SHOOT ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

1/24--MJ227P

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
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- ☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

☒ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (d)(5)

☐ (b)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☐ (j)(2)

☐ (b)(3)

☒ (b)(7)(C)

☐ (k)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(D)

☐ (k)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(E)

☐ (k)(3)

☐ (b)(7)(F)

☐ (k)(4)

☐ (b)(4)

☐ (b)(8)

☐ (k)(5)

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☐ (b)(9)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (b)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of \_\_\_\_\_

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- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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1/30/59

**AIRTEL**

**TO: DIRECTOR, FBI**  
**FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (109-46)**  
**SUBJECT: CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES**  
**PTN-CUBA**

The NYO is in receipt of a letter dated 1/26/59 from Headquarters, First United States Army, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Intelligence, which states as follows:

"There is evidence of increasing voluntary enlistment of Central American and West Indian (including Cuban) immigrants in the United States Army. In many cases there does not appear to be any personal advantage nor does loyalty or patriotism appear as a factor in such enlistment. A recent group included, for example, a Cuban lawyer, a Dominican medical graduate, a Colombian student, etc.

"The possibility of future activities carried on by such individuals while they are under U.S. Army control is of concern to this office.

"In view of the recent Central American developments and the revolution in Cuba, any information you may have on Communist influence within the Castro Government, would be greatly appreciated."

This matter is being referred to the Bureau in view of the nature of the request, since it is felt the Bureau would have more complete data pertinent to the request.

This letter has been acknowledged and G-2 advised that their request has been furnished to FBI headquarters.

3-Bureau (RM)  
1-New York (109-46)

FJS:EG  
(5)

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- ☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

☒ (b)(1)

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☐ (b)(3)

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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.
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Office Memorandum

1 • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : Legal Attache, Havana (66-101)

SUBJECT: INTELLIGENCE SURVEY - CUBA

DATE: January 15, 1959

62264

Mr. Tolson ✓

Mr. Belmont ✓

Mr. Mohr ✓

Mr. Parsons ✓

Mr. Rosen ✓

Mr. Tamm ✓

Mr. Trotter ✓

Mr. W.C. Sullivan ✓

Tele. Room

Mr. Holloman

Miss Gandy

Submitted herewith are an original and six copies of a memorandum captioned as above.

All information contained in this memorandum is already known to appropriate Embassy officials, including the Cuban Legation. It is to be noted that in many instances the personal opinions of the writer have been set forth, based on information received from sources of this office.

No dissemination of the memorandum as such has been made locally. It is classified "Confidential" inasmuch as it reflects information obtained from confidential sources of this office in Cuba.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 7)  
1 - Havana  
JTH/DJB:lg  
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EX-132

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BORCH MATT

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enclosure to [unclear]

109-12-210



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

January 15, 1959

INTELLIGENCE SURVEY - CUBA

SYNOPSIS

During final days of December, 1958, BATISTA armed forces led [redacted] made dying gasp to stop rebel advance. Air Force indiscriminately bombed Cuban towns and cities held by rebels. The flight of Government officials was fore-shadowed by attempts on part of a number of them to secure U. S. visas. News of BATISTA flight at 3:30 A.M. January 1 spread at first slowly throughout city but by 11:00 A.M. crowds of vandals began acts of terrorism. Militia of July 26, however, had restored order by nightfall, although sacking of homes of pro-BATISTA elements continued for several days. Embassy began immediate plans for evacuation of approximately 2,200 tourists, which evacuation completed within a 4-day period. Although caretaker government had been left by BATISTA in person [redacted] July 26 forces actually controlled country. Provisional President MANUEL URRUTIA arrived Havana January 5, but his planned triumphal entry marred when members of Directorio Revolucionario refused to give up Palace, claiming had not received adequate representation in Provisional Government. Provisional Government completely July 26 dominated. FIDEL CASTRO entered Havana January 8 and in mass rally asked for all to back Provisional Government. Approximately 200 BATISTA followers executed to date, and Cuban leaders, including FIDEL CASTRO, very vehement in statements against those who attack such mass executions. Several of FIDEL CASTRO's lieutenants in prominent positions have made anti-United States remarks and stated that they were not anti-Communists. Communists have commenced republication of daily newspaper "Hoy" and have made inroads in capturing important positions in labor unions. Files of Bureau for Repression of Communist Activities presently under control of Commander ERNESTO "CHE" GUEVARA, prominent CASTRO aide and an Argentinian who is definitely anti-American. He states he will burn same. CASTRO through intemperate remarks has fanned anti-U.S. feeling. Prominent Cuban magazine, "Bohemia", in issue of 1,000,000 copies carried scathing attack against U. S. Ambassador EARL E. T. SMITH. CASTRO idol of mobs but some thinking people have indicated that he talks too much and attempts to completely control Provisional Government. Gambling casinos closed but some top hoodlums with gambling interests remain in Havana. Government officials in statements have vacillated with respect to their ideas concerning reopening of gambling establishments, but CASTRO now states some will reopen under Government supervision.

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67

WATSONS FILE 1959



United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

January 15, 1959

INTELLIGENCE SURVEY - CUBA

FLIGHT OF PAST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

In the closing days of December, 1958, the BATISTA forces in a last-gasp effort to delay the rebel forces called

[REDACTED]

b7C

[REDACTED] Sources advise that [REDACTED] during his time in Government service, was considered to be ruthless in his dealings with enemies of the regime. It was reported that on assuming command [REDACTED] personally directed the armed forces and for a few days evidently stirred the morale of the soldiers. The Air Force took to the air and bombed the town of Santa Clara in Las Villas Province, killing hundreds of innocent persons but not doing much material damage to the rebel forces.

b7C

BATISTA celebrated New Year's Eve with a group of close "cronies" at his headquarters, Camp Columbia, Havana. At approximately 3:30 A.M. he and his close "henchmen" fled the country,

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CONFIDENTIAL

January 15, 1959

some going to the Dominican Republic and some to the United States. Most of those accompanying BATISTA were those who were active in carrying out under his orders a ruthless purge of enemies of the BATISTA regime.

A foreshadowing of BATISTA's sudden disappearance from Cuba was the fact that for approximately two weeks prior to January 1 numerous Cuban officials closely connected with BATISTA made arrangements to secure United States visas for themselves or their families.

Among those leaving with BATISTA were [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED], and several minor police officials who were considered to have been directly involved in the torture and killing of Cuban citizens during BATISTA's rule.

The word of BATISTA's flight did not become generally known to the people in Havana until about 10:00 A.M. on January 1. Word then rapidly spread throughout the district of Old Havana, and hoodlums began their acts of vandalism. The first things to disappear were all of the parking meters which were smashed and broken by vandals who pocketed the coins contained therein.



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Shop windows of luxurious stores were broken and the stores ransacked. Three of the smaller gambling casinos, namely the Plaza, Deauville, and Seville Biltmore, were invaded by mobs and their equipment destroyed. Police continued to be seen on the streets in prowl cars and on foot until approximately 5:00 P.M; however, they did nothing to deter any of the mob action. That evening militia of the July 26 Movement began to take over the police functions in the City of Havana. During the second and third days of the revolution houses of prominent politicians were sacked with the blessing of the July 26 group.

The Embassy immediately began making plans for the evacuation of approximately 2,200 American tourists who were found stranded in Havana. In view of the fact that a general strike had been called in Havana Province by the July 26 Movement during the initial days of the revolution, plans for the evacuation of these tourists proved to be very difficult to finalize. Many of the tourists complained bitterly concerning the lack of foodstuffs in the city and what they termed the inept handling by the Embassy of the making of appropriate arrangements for their departure. The Embassy through liaison with July 26 leaders was able to make arrangements with Cubana de Aviacion, the Key West Ferry, and the Palm Beach Ferry to get all these tourists out of Havana within a four-day period.

January 15, 1959

BATISTA, on his flight from the country, had left a caretaker government [REDACTED] however, on the night of January 1 [REDACTED] turned over the armed forces to [REDACTED] who had been freed and brought back to Havana from the Isle of Pines Prison that same date. [REDACTED] had been in prison because of an attempted revolt against BATISTA. Although [REDACTED] had nominal control of the armed forces, the July 26 militia ruled Havana. b7C

The followers of FIDEL CASTRO immediately took control of all radio and television stations in Havana and through this means of communication exerted much control over popular feeling. Although the 26th of July militia did much to control the looting and sacking in Havana, there were outlying instances where vandals took advantage of an almost chaotic situation. Most people feel, however, that without the forceful entry of the July 26 personnel into the vacuum created by BATISTA's sudden withdrawal from the country, conditions would have been much worse for all the citizenry.

On January 3 [REDACTED] turned over the command of Army forces at Camp Columbia to the July 26 commander, CAMILO CIENFUEGOS, who had arrived from the Second Front on that date. b7C CIENFUEGOS continues to be in charge of this position. [REDACTED] himself, although a popular idol, has been relegated to the job of in charge of Army schools.

January 15, 1959

Judge MANUEL URRUTIA took the oath of office as Provisional President on the afternoon of January 2 at Santiago de Cuba. He arrived in Havana on January 5. A planned triumphal entry of URRUTIA into Havana was marred by the fact that followers of the Directorio Revolucionario, who had fought against the BATISTA Government, had seized control of the Presidential Palace and had refused to give it up to the July 26 elements because they felt they had not received adequate representation in the Provisional Government. After several hours of negotiation, however, they finally agreed to vacate the Palace, and late in the evening of January 5 URRUTIA was installed in his new home.

URRUTIA has named the following members of his Cabinet:

Prime Minister	JOSE MIRO CARDONA
State	ROBERTO AGRAMONTE PICHARDO
Treasury	RUFO LOPEZ FRESQUET
Justice	ANGEL FERNANDEZ
Commerce	RAUL CEPERO BONILLA
Public Works	MANUEL RAY RIVERO
Agriculture	HUMBERTO SORI MARIN
Education	ARMANDO HART DAVALOS
Interior	LUIS ORLANDO RODRIGUEZ
Labor	MANUEL FERNANDEZ

January 15, 1959

Public Health

JULIO MARTINEZ PAEZ

Recovery of Misappropriated  
Assets

FAUSTINO PEREZ HERNANDEZ

Delegate General of the  
Presidency to the  
Armed Forces

FIDEL CASTRO RUZ

Secretary to the  
Presidency

LUIS BUCH RODRIGUEZ

The Cabinet is composed almost completely of adherents of the July 26 Movement, although the Ortodoxo and the Montecristi Groups also are represented. There are no known Communists in the group, and most are young men of unproven experience.

FIDEL CASTRO delayed his triumphal entry into Havana until January 8. It was generally believed that his delay in coming to Cuba's capital was occasioned by fear that members of the Directorio Revolucionario might create incidents to mar his welcome. CASTRO was most impressive in his initial speech in Havana. He was moderate in his approach and asked for all persons to lay down their arms and give their full support to the Provisional Government.

Since that time, however, CASTRO has become more demagogic in his statements and has on several occasions ~~has~~ spoken and acted as though he were the Government. URRUTIA, as Provisional President, has remained in the background and is considered to be a weak man, completely controlled by CASTRO.

EXECUTIONS

In the first days of the revolution it was known that a number of adherents to the BATISTA regime were killed in Havana when they attempted to escape the militia patrolling the streets. At the present time there is a planned execution of what the Government forces call BATISTA "murderers" and "informers." To date these executions, which total approximately 200, have taken place in the outlying provinces. In Havana, itself, however, a total of 1,000 persons have been imprisoned and are reportedly awaiting trial. The reaction of Cuban leaders to world-wide comments condemning mass executions has been violent and immediate.

ERNESTO "CHE" GUEVARA, the 26th of July commander in charge of La Cabana Fortress in Havana, has commented that the Americans who decry these executions should wipe their faces with the pictures of those tortured and killed by BATISTA. FIDEL CASTRO has also been intemperate in his statements against the reaction of some U. S. politicians and newspapermen. CASTRO, himself, on one occasion stated that for those imprisoned in Havana a mass trial for all to see would be held in Havana's Central Park. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FIDEL CASTRO, himself, later explained why he was

January 15, 1959

displeased with [REDACTED] He claimed he had entered into an agreement with [REDACTED] during the closing weeks of December, 1958, whereby [REDACTED] was to insure that BATISTA and his followers did not leave CUBA. CASTRO claimed that [REDACTED] was a traitor for not having kept his word. [REDACTED] at present is a prisoner of the Cuban Government at La Cabana Fortress. b7c

COMMUNIST PROGRESS SINCE BATISTA'S FLIGHT

During the first days of the revolution little was heard from the communist element. They did, however, on several occasions during this period attempt to secure radio and television time but were unsuccessful in their endeavors. However, ERNESTO "CHE" GUEVARA and CAMILO CIENFUEGOS, lieutenants of FIDEL CASTRO, on coming to Cuba announced that they were not anti-communists. Since January 1 the Party has established the publication of its daily newspaper, "HOY." In the National Workers United Front the communists have succeeded in capturing five out of the twenty-two positions on the Executive Committee. The communists also have opened a headquarters in the City of Havana. Some of their members have also been able to secure minor positions in the Provisional Government.

Shortly after the arrival of CAMILO CIENFUEGOS and ERNESTO "CHE" GUEVARA to Havana, the files of the Bureau for Repression of Communist Activities (BRAC) were transferred from Camp Columbia, where CIENFUEGOS has command, to La Cabana Fortress, which is under the control of ERNESTO "CHE" GUEVARA. "CHE" GUEVARA announced that he would review these files and then would publicly burn them.

January 15, 1959

ANTI-UNITED STATES FEELING

FIDEL CASTRO in his public statements has not been complimentary toward the United States. He has asked for the recall of the United States Army Missions and in his speeches has derided their qualifications, claiming that they could not have been much good inasmuch as they trained a defeated army, namely the Army of BATISTA. He has publicly stated that he was in favor of asking for a military mission from Venezuela to train Cuba's forces. In a very intemperate remark made on January 15 he stated that if United States Marines were sent to Cuba, "200,000 gringos will die." He later claimed that he made this statement to persons whom he thought were friends and that it was not for publication. ERNESTO "CHE" GUEVARA is definitely anti-American in his sentiments. The FIDEL CASTRO followers continue to allege that the United States sent arms and munitions to the BATISTA forces to kill fellow Cubans, a charge which has not been true for some time.

The prominent Cuban magazine, "Bohemia", in a special issue of one million copies issued on January 12, 1959, carried a scurrilous and scathing attack against U. S. Ambassador EARL E. T. SMITH. The article was full of half-truths and untruths. It claimed that SMITH was pro-BATISTA because of the fact that

Intelligence Survey - Cuba

January 15, 1959

BATISTA gave concessions to big U. S. business. It derided a ball which was given at the Waldorf Astoria in November, 1958, for a scholarship fund sponsored [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Attempts by the Press Officer of the Embassy, after the publication of this article, to contact the magazine's editor proved ineffectual. b7C

CUBAN SENTIMENT TOWARD FIDEL CASTRO

FIDEL CASTRO is Cuba's white hope at the present moment and the idol of the corwds. The old-line Cuban politicians have not come to the forefront to voice any disappointment with policy expounded by CASTRO. CASTRO has given the impression of one who, in his public statements, is able to sway the people. Reliable observers, however, have pointed out that in the numerous statements which CASTRO has issued in the past week in Havana he has lost some prestige. He appears to be over-talkative and one who is willing to give a statement on any situation or problem. His press conferences go on for hours, and it is the feeling of some that he talks too much.



January 15, 1959

CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

1. Top Hoodlums

As a result of the over-throw of the BATISTA Government on January 1, 1959, there has been a general exodus of gamblers and some top hoodlums from Havana. However, the following top hoodlums still remain on the Havana scene, for the admitted purpose of seeing whether they can "deal" with the new Government concerning the resumption of gambling operations in Havana:

SANTO TRAFFICANTE, Miami top hoodlum;

 Miami top hoodlum;

CHARLES FOURINE, Miami top hoodlum.

b7C

2. Gambling

On January 1, 1959, when law and order were non-existent in Havana, mobs of people sacked and destroyed the gambling casinos in the Hotels Plaza, Deauville, and Sevilla Biltmore. Minor damage was done to the Sans Souci gambling casino. The larger casinos managed to stave off any mob action by having their employees, many of whom were members of the July 26 Movement, block the entry of such mobs and discourage them from doing damage to these larger casinos. All casinos at the present time are closed. There has been a number of announcements

January 15, 1959

by Government officials concerning gambling. The most recent statements of Dr. FIDEL CASTRO RUZ indicate that gambling will be permitted in the larger hotels, such as the Riviera, Hilton, and Nacional, as well as in the Sans Souci and Tropicana night clubs. Apparently the smaller "popular" casinos will not be allowed to re-open.

3. "Take"

CASTRO has indicated that the casino profits will be divided as follows:

40 per cent for Cuban charity;  
30 " " " tourist promotion;  
30 " " " casino operators.

It appears doubtful that any of the larger casinos would re-open under these terms since a profit margin of 30 per cent of the profits for a casino operator would not make a large gambling operation worthwhile. It is known that important American gamblers are bringing pressure to bear on the Government, both through their own personal contacts as well as through the casino employees, in an effort to obtain permission to re-open and at the same time receive a reasonable profit on their investment.

4. Police Tie-Ups With Organized Crime

With the fall of the BATISTA Government all police tie-ups with organized crime ceased. Casino operators have

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Intelligence Survey - Cuba

January 15, 1959

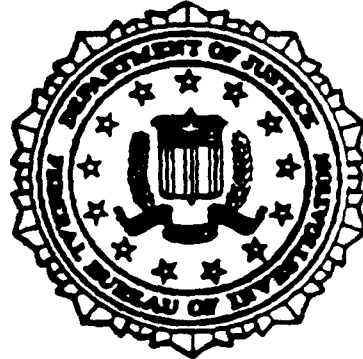
indicated that it would be a relief to them to operate their casinos without continual "shake-downs" by various police officials. They have stated that they would be willing to pay a higher percentage of their profits to the Cuban Government provided that the Government can insure there will be no "shake-downs."

5. Other Criminal Activity

No new developments.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

# ***FILE DESCRIPTION***



**SUBJECT**

Cuba 1958-1964

**FILE NO.**

109-HQ-12-210

**VOLUME NO.**

11

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont *QMB*

DATE: 1/21/59

FROM: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION

In connection with data supplied Director initially on 1/14/59 regarding Cuban situation on basis of indication Under Secretary of State Herter might discuss situation with Director, it is noted we pointed out Bureau informant in October, 1958, visited headquarters [REDACTED] in Cuba. We indicated informant obtained valuable intelligence data which was promptly made available to interested agencies. *b7C*

In amplification of this, this informant is [REDACTED] who was developed by Miami Office. He went to Cuba on 10/29/58. On his return from trip he gave detailed account [REDACTED] *b2/b7D*  
*b7C*

This information related by informant upon return was received 11/13/58, analysed and presented in memorandum 11/18/58, and disseminated 11/19/58 to State Department, [REDACTED] Customs, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Civil Aeronautics Administration, the Department and intelligence branches of Army, Navy and Air Force. (97-3244-295, 303) *b2*

ACTION:

EX-100 REC-15 117-12-511-4  
3 FEB 2 1959  
This is for the information of the Director. *b7C*

1 - Belmont

1 - [REDACTED]

1 - [REDACTED]

1 - [REDACTED]

SBD:bbf

(5)

604718/1000

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont

DATE: January 28, 1959

FROM : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: THE CUBAN SITUATION

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_

By memorandum January 24, 1959, a brief on the Cuban situation was submitted for the Director's information in connection with his luncheon meeting with Under Secretary of State Christian A. Herter at 1 p.m., Thursday, January 29, 1959.

At 9:30 this morning our Liaison Section learned that Roy R. Rubottom, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, one of the original invitees to the luncheon meeting, will be unable to attend since he must make a speech before some organization (name unknown) in New York City which is bestowing an award upon Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. Taking Mr. Rubottom's place at the luncheon meeting will be his assistant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State William P. Snow.

All material relating to the Cuban situation received in the Division since the brief was completed, up to and including material available through the close of business January 27, has been reviewed and pertinent data incorporated into revised pages for insertion into the brief.

The revised pages include a squib on William P. Snow; results of interview with [REDACTED] Batista's Bureau for Repression of Communist Activity; details concerning recent trips to Cuba [REDACTED] and Miami informant [REDACTED] press reports on alleged efforts by Castro to rid his regime of communists; communist background on an additional Castro supporter; further interest by Communist Party, U.S.A., in Cuban matters; potential political ramifications in Latin America as a result of the Cuban revolution; and latest developments in the Haitian situation.

ACTION: DATE 3/30/99 BY [REDACTED] REC-76

25 JAN 30 1959

It is recommended, if the Director approves, the revised pages, which are attached, be inserted in his brief.

WRW:baf Baf  
(8)

cc - 1 - Holloman  
1 - Belmont  
1 - [REDACTED]  
1 - [REDACTED]

WILL Be done AFTER  
DIRECTOR APPROVES

cc - 1 - Wannall  
1 - [REDACTED]  
1 - Yellow File Copy

Enclosures

66 FEB 4 1959

see page 2

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont from [REDACTED]

b7C

Re: THE CUBAN SITUATION

We have placed a pencilled line along the right-hand margin of these pages wherever additional material has been added, in order that the Director may quickly see exactly what has been added.

✓ 9 ✓

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.
- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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D-3

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
January 22, 1959

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The appointment for a luncheon  
meeting with Under Secretary  
of State Herter and his group  
on Thursday, January 29th, has  
been confirmed.

[REDACTED], of the Under Secretary's  
Office, asks that Mr. Hoover come directly  
to Mr. Herter's Office for the engagement.

The luncheon will be held in the dining room  
which she said was across the hall from the  
Under Secretary's office.

hwg

cc - Mr. Holloman and Telephone room

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/31/99 BY 60267MS/BCE/KOB

*See that I have  
a brief (complete)  
promptly.*

REC-92  
MEMO [REDACTED]  
TO BELMONT  
1-24-59

23 FEB 3 1959

SBD:bba

553

b7c

b7c

b7c

6

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

January 22, 1959

11:00 am

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_

[redacted] in the office of Mr. Jones  
Under Secretary of State Herter, Mr. W.C. Sullivan  
telephoned to ask if Mr. Hoover Tele. Room  
will be free on Thursday, Mr. Holloman  
January 29, to be the key guest Miss Holmes  
at a luncheon meeting in the Miss Gandy  
Under Secretary's dining room, at 1:00 pm.

She said there will be present [redacted]  
General Swing; a representative from Customs;  
the Assistant Secretary in Charge of Latin  
American Affairs; the Head of Security, and  
a few others, and the topic of the meeting  
will be the matter which was discussed when  
Mr. Hoover and Mr. Herter met this week.

[redacted] asked to be called and advised  
if, or not, Mr. Hoover can do this.

hwg

cc - Mr. Holloman and Telephone room.

Code 182-2101

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DATE 3/31/99 BY 60207 NS/BUE/FB

*I will be able to attend.*

REC- 92

23 FEB 3 1959

66 FEB 4 1959

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont *W*

DATE: January 24, 1959

FROM : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: THE CUBAN SITUATION

Tolson ☒  
 Boardman ☐  
 Belmont ☐  
 Mohr ☐  
 Nease ☒ b7C  
 Parsons ☐  
 Rosen ☐  
 Tamm ☐  
 Trotter ☐  
 W.C. Sullivan ☒  
 Tele. Room ☐  
 Holloman ☐  
 Gandy ☐

Attached is a brief for the information of the Director in connection with his luncheon meeting with Under Secretary of State Christian A. Herter in the dining room across the hall from Mr. Herter's office. The luncheon is set for 1 p.m., Thursday, January 29, 1959.

In addition to the Director, the following persons have also been invited: [REDACTED] b2

General Joseph M. Swing, Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service; A. Gilmore Flues, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; Roy R. Rubottom, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs; Hugh S. Cumming, Jr., Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State; [REDACTED] Administrator, Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, Department of State; and [REDACTED] Department of State. b7C

ACTION:

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 DATE 4/6/99 BY 60267 NLS/BCE/PK 117499

For the information of the Director. 60267 NLS/BCE/PK 117499

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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ENCLOSURE

(End attached)

CLASSIFIED BY

REC-92

## Enclosure

109-12-210

1 - Holloman

1 - Belmont

1 - [REDACTED]

1 - [REDACTED]

1 - [REDACTED]

1 - [REDACTED]

SBD: bbr

(8)

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23 FEB 3 1959

NAT. INT. SEC.

67 SEP 21 1959

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THE CUBAN SITUATION

*Luncheon Meeting in Dining Room  
of Under Secretary of State  
Christian A. Herter*

*1:00 P.M., Thursday  
January 29, 1959*

4/6/99  
CLASSIFIED BY 60267 NLS/RCE/RB  
DECLASSIFY ON: ECK 1-6  
60267 NLS/BCE/BK 10-7-99

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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

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5-wru

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INVITEES TO LUNCHEON MEETING IN  
DINING ROOM OF UNDER SECRETARY  
OF STATE CHRISTIAN A. HERTER  
1:00 P.M., JANUARY 29, 1959

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INVITEES TO LUNCHEON MEETING  
IN DINING ROOM OF UNDER SECRETARY  
OF STATE CHRISTIAN A. HERTER  
1 PM JANUARY 29, 1959

On January 22, 1959, Governor Herter's secretary advised that the Director would be the key guest at the above luncheon meeting. On January 23, 1959, our Liaison Section determined the following officials have also been invited to attend:

Christian A. Herter

Under Secretary of State, and as such,  
Chairman of the Operations Coordinating Board

[REDACTED]

b2

General Joseph M. Swing

Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization  
Service

A. Gilmore Flues

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury

Mr. Flues has held his present position for the past year, handling matters involving Bureaus of Customs, Narcotics, and Secret Service. He is a lawyer from Toledo, Ohio, who served with the Office of Strategic Services during World War II. Our contact with him has been limited but cordial. He has not taken over control of the activities of the above Bureaus as did his predecessor, David W. Kendall, now Counsel to the President, and is considered by our contacts within Treasury as a "lightweight." Mr. Flues is well controlled and led by Commissioner Harry J. Anslinger, who uses him to his advantage.

William P. Snow

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State  
for Inter-American Affairs

Mr. Snow first entered State Department Service June 2, 1934, and just prior to assuming his present position in June, 1957, served as Counselor of the American Embassy in Mexico City. During the time he was there, occasional difficulties arose with him in connection with Embassy administrative matters, such as the diplomatic status of Bureau Agents in Mexico, but those problems were all resolved. Mr. Snow introduced himself to the Director at the Washington Airport during the May 15, 1958,

~~SECRET~~

reception for Vice President Nixon. He commented very favorably on Legal Attache John N. Speakes in Mexico.

Hugh S. Cumming, Jr.

The Director of Intelligence and Research,  
Department of State

Mr. Cumming has been with the Department of State continuously since August, 1927, and has held his present position since May, 1957. During two Bureau investigations (special inquiry and applicant-type) no subversive derogatory information was developed. [REDACTED] b1 (S)

On June 20, 1957, former Assistant to the Director Nichols reported that according to Mr. Cumming, he had long been a booster of the Bureau and his father had always been a great admirer of the Bureau. (Mr. Cumming, Sr., is a former Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service.)

Our liaison contacts with Mr. Cumming have been very infrequent. There is nothing to indicate he has been uncooperative.

[REDACTED] Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs b7C

[REDACTED] who is 33 years old, was sworn into his present position January 9, 1959. His family owns the [REDACTED] and his father [REDACTED] b7C

[REDACTED] On January 21, 1953, he (S)(S) b1

ii

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*entered on duty at the Department of State as a Foreign Affairs Officer (Special Assistant to the Secretary), Office of the Secretary of State.*

*[REDACTED] is so new in his current position we are unable to state the extent of his cooperation with the Bureau; however, there is nothing to indicate he will be other than cooperative.* b7c

*[REDACTED] Department of State*

*[REDACTED] is usually addressed as "Colonel," the rank he held when released from active duty, U.S. Army Reserves, on April 2, 1949. He has been with the Department of State since May, 1949, and was appointed to his present position as of March 1, 1957. During a Bureau investigation of an Atomic Energy Act-Applicant nature in May-June, 1957, no subversive derogatory information was developed.* b7c

*[REDACTED] has never been contacted by our liaison representatives and we, therefore, have no information concerning his attitude toward the Bureau. There is nothing to indicate he will be other than cooperative.* b7c

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*I. CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN CUBA*

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I. CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN CUBA

A. Recent Political Developments

Much of the data which follows dealing with the recent political developments in Cuba was received from our Legal Attache in Havana on January 22, 1959, and is based on information received from his sources. (The Legal Attache has advised that all of his information is known to the appropriate officials in the United States Embassy in Havana, including personnel of the [REDACTED])

b2

1. Fall of Batista Government and Flight of Batista and his Henchmen into Exile on January 1, 1959

In the closing days of December, 1958, the Batista forces in a last-gasp effort to delay the rebel forces called [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7c

Sources advised that [REDACTED] during his time in Government service, was considered to be ruthless in his dealings with enemies of the regime. It was reported that on assuming command [REDACTED] personally directed the armed forces and for a few days evidently stirred the morale of the soldiers. The Air Force took to the air and bombed the town of Santa Clara in Las Villas Province, killing hundreds of innocent persons but not doing much material damage to the rebel forces.

Batista celebrated New Year's Eve with a group of close "cronies" at his headquarters, Camp Columbia, Havana. At approximately 3:30 A.M. he and his close henchmen fled the country, some going to the Dominican Republic and some to the United States. Most of those accompanying Batista were those who were active in carrying out under his orders a ruthless purge of enemies of the Batista regime.

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BOORUM & PEASE "NEAR" ①

BOORUM & PEASE "NEAR" ①



*A foreshadowing of Batista's sudden disappearance from Cuba was the fact that for approximately two weeks prior to January 1, 1959, numerous Cuban officials closely connected with Batista made arrangements to secure United States visas for themselves or their families.*

*Among those leaving with Batista were*

*and several minor police officials who were considered to have been directly involved in the torture and killing of Cuban citizens during Batista's rule.*

*The arrival of pro-Batista adherents in New York, Jacksonville, Key West, Daytona Beach, West Palm Beach, and New Orleans on New Year's Day, touched off demonstrations of anti-Batista elements. At the same time, many anti-Batista exiles in the United States, including former Cuban President Carlos Prío Socarras, were departing for Cuba.*

*It is evident that the presence of these pro-Batista adherents in the United States who fled Cuba is a source of irritation to the present Cuban Government. Press reports on January 17, 1959, indicated Castro scheduled a mass demonstration on January 21, 1959, to reject foreign intervention and demand that the United States return Batista "war criminals" and their money. It was also reported on January 17, 1959, that "American officials," not named, had said the United States may have to return escaped supporters of Batista to Cuba to stand trial if the new Cuban Government accuses them of serious crimes such as murder. These officials said that under the United States-Cuban extradition treaty this country would not have to send back persons cited only for political offenses but Cuba could ask this country for those who*

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fled if it accused them of certain specific crimes such as murder, rape, kidnaping, and assault with a deadly weapon. A Federal Court would then consider each case and decide on extradition. The demand for return of Cuban money would also be handled by a Federal judge but officials were quoted as saying no formal demand had been received for return of Batista adherents or money.

These press reports commented that Castro's demand was apparently primarily aimed at [REDACTED] who the rebels claim led a private army in Cuba which committed atrocities against Batista opponents. [REDACTED] and others escaped in two yachts to Key West, Florida, when the Government fell. The rebels claim he carried away \$17,000,000 from the treasury. The United States Immigration and Naturalization Service reportedly found \$100,000 on the yachts. The Immigration and Naturalization Service is holding [REDACTED] in a detention camp in Texas. Several of Batista's children are among the other Cubans in the United States who might be affected by Castro's demand. b7C

Political asylum, of course, may be the plea of those sought by the Cuban rebels. Historically in the past the United States has granted asylum to genuine political figures who do not want to return and has been reluctant to deport persons who can prove they would be subject to physical harm or unfair trials at home.

2. Bureau Position Concerning Pro-Batista Refugees in the United States

The Bureau position on the matter of pro-Batista refugees in the United States is that the question of asylum is primarily one for the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the State Department. However, we are carefully watching the situation to make sure that appropriate action is taken in the event any individuals of particular security or criminal interest are admitted to the United States.

3. Situation in Havana Immediately Following Flight of Batista

The word of Batista's flight did not become generally known to the people in Havana until about 10 A.M. on January 1, 1959. Word then rapidly spread throughout the district of Old Havana, and hoodlums began their acts of vandalism. The first things to disappear were all of the parking meters, which were smashed and broken by vandals who pocketed the coins contained therein. Shop windows of luxurious stores were broken and the stores ransacked. Three of the smaller gambling casinos, namely the Plaza, Deauville, and Seville Biltmore, were invaded by mobs and their equipment destroyed. Police continued to be seen on the streets in prowl cars and on foot until approximately 5 P.M.; however, they did nothing to deter any of the mob action. That evening militia of the July 26 Movement began to take over the police functions in the city of Havana. During the second and third days of the revolution, houses of prominent politicians were sacked with the blessing of the July 26 group.

The Embassy immediately began making plans for the evacuation of approximately 2,200 American tourists who were found stranded in Havana. In view of the fact that a general strike had been called in Havana Province by the July 26 Movement during the initial days of the revolution, plans for the evacuation of these tourists proved to be very difficult to finalize. Many of the tourists complained bitterly concerning the lack of foodstuffs in the city and what they termed the inept handling by the Embassy of the making of appropriate arrangements for their departure. The Embassy through liaison with July 26 leaders was able to make arrangements with Cubana de Aviacion, the Key West Ferry, and the Palm Beach Ferry to get all these tourists out of Havana within a four-day period.

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Batista, on his flight from the country, had left a caretaker government

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] however, on the night of January 1, 1959, [REDACTED] turned over the armed forces to [REDACTED], who had been freed and brought back to Havana from the Isle of Pines Prison that same date. [REDACTED] had been in [REDACTED] because of an attempted revolt against Batista. Although [REDACTED] had nominal control of the armed forces, the July 26 militia ruled Havana.

b7C

The followers of Fidel Castro immediately took control of all radio and television stations in Havana and through this means of communication, exerted much control over popular feeling. Although the 26 of July militia did much to control the looting and sacking in Havana, there were outlying instances where vandals took advantage of an almost chaotic situation. Most people feel, however, that without the forceful entry of the July 26 personnel into the vacuum created by Batista's sudden withdrawal from the country, conditions would have been much worse for all the citizenry.

On January 3, 1959, [REDACTED] turned over the command of Army forces at Camp Columbia to the July 26 commander, Camilo Cienfuegos, who had arrived from the Second Front on that date. Cienfuegos continues to be in charge of this position. [REDACTED] himself, although a popular idol, has been relegated to the job of in charge of Army schools.

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4. Establishment of Provisional Government  
in Cuba and Appointment of Cabinet

Judge Manuel Urrutia took the oath of office as Provisional President on the afternoon of January 2, 1959, at Santiago de Cuba. He arrived in Havana on January 5, 1959. A planned triumphal entry of Urrutia into Havana was marred by the fact that followers of the Directorio Revolucionario, who had fought against the Batista Government, had seized control of the Presidential Palace and had refused to give it up to the July 26 elements because they felt they had not received adequate representation in the Provisional Government. After several hours of negotiation, however, they finally agreed to vacate the Palace, and late in the evening of January 5, 1959, Urrutia was installed in his new home.

Urrutia has named the following members of his Cabinet:

Prime Minister	Jose Miro Cardona
State	Roberto Agramonte Pichardo
Treasury	Rufo Lopez Fresquet
Justice	Angel Fernandez
Commerce	Raul Cepero Bonilla
Public Works	Manuel Ray Rivero
Agriculture	Hunberto Sori Marin
Education	Armando Hart Davalos
Interior	Luis Orlando Rodriguez
Labor	Manuel Fernandez
Public Health	Julio Martinez Paez
Recovery of Misappropriated Assets	Faustino Perez Hernandez
Delegate General of the Presidency to the Armed Forces	Fidel Castro
Secretary to the Presidency	Luis Buch Rodriguez

The Cabinet is composed almost completely of adherents of the July 26 Movement. The Legal Attache has advised there are no known communists in the group and most are young men of unproven experience.

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Fidel Castro delayed his triumphal entry into Havana until January 8, 1959. It was generally believed that his delay in coming to Cuba's capital was occasioned by fear that members of the Directorio Revolucionario might create incidents to mar his welcome. Castro was most impressive in his initial speech in Havana. He was moderate in his approach and asked for all persons to lay down their arms and give their full support to the Provisional Government.

Since that time, however, Castro has become more demagogic in his statements and on several occasions has spoken and acted as though he were the Government. Urrutia, as Provisional President, has remained in the background and is considered to be a weak man, completely controlled by Castro.

On January 21, 1959, the press noted that the Government of Provisional President Manuel Urrutia reported progress in its hunt for money Batista and his followers squirreled away during the dictatorship. Announcements said a safe deposit box of Batista's [REDACTED] had yielded \$6,000,000 in stocks and \$125,000 in cash; \$5,000,000 in stocks had been found in the names of Batista's five sons; \$1,375,000 sent to Switzerland for weapons had been recovered; and \$6,000,000 more deposited in Western Europe for arms was being sought.


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5. Trials and Executions in Cuba

The recklessness with which the Castro forces began to liquidate the members of the Batista regime led to cries that the new Government was no better than the old and that one tyrant had merely supplanted another. The Castro executions are obnoxious to citizens of the United States and many prominent individuals have voiced their protestations.

In the first days of the revolution it was known that a number of adherents of the Batista regime were killed in Havana when they attempted to escape the militia patrolling the streets. At the present time there is a planned execution of what the Government forces call Batista "murderers" and "informers." To date these executions, which total approximately 200, have taken place in the outlying provinces. In Havana, itself, however, a total of 1,000 persons have been imprisoned and are reportedly awaiting trial. The first of these trials began on January 22, 1959. The reaction of Cuban leaders to world-wide comments condemning mass executions has been violent and immediate. Ernesto "Che" Guevara, the 26 of July commander in charge of La Cabana Fortress in Havana, has commented that the Americans who decry these executions should wipe their faces with the pictures of those tortured and killed by Batista. Fidel Castro has also been intemperate in his statements against the reaction of some United States politicians and newspapermen. Castro, himself, has stated that for those imprisoned in Havana, a mass trial for all to see would be held in Havana.



Fidel Castro, himself, later explained why he was displeased

consulting

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with [REDACTED] He claimed he had entered into an agreement with [REDACTED] during the closing weeks of December, 1958, whereby [REDACTED] was to insure that Batista and his followers did not leave Cuba. Castro claimed that [REDACTED] was a traitor for not having kept his word. [REDACTED] at present is a prisoner of the Cuban Government at La Cabana Fortress.

b7C

Concerning the wave of executions in Cuba, it was reported on January 19, 1959, that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Havana, stated that he and the church were usually opposed to capital punishment "but in the case of the current proceedings here in Cuba it is justified."

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## 6. Cuban Anti-United States Feeling

Almost immediately after the flight of Batista, reports were received that the pro-Castro element was not in favor of the continuance of Earl E. T. Smith as United States Ambassador to Cuba as he was looked upon as a symbol of Batista. Smith's resignation was publicly announced on January 10, 1959. On January 12, 1959, the Cuban magazine "Bohemia" carried an unsigned article attacking Smith stating that Smith had been close to Batista for the purpose of obtaining concessions for big American business; that Smith claimed that the Castro forces were communists; and that Smith had been Batista's best propagandist for the "electoral farce" that took place in November, 1958. Attempts by the Press Officer of the Embassy, after the publication of the article, to contact the magazine's editor proved ineffectual. It is noted that President Eisenhower nominated career diplomat Philip W. Bonsal as the new United States Ambassador to Cuba on January 21, 1959.

Despite the fact the United States afforded recognition to the new Government on January 8, 1959, Fidel Castro in his public statements has not been complimentary toward the United States. He has asked for the recall of the United States Army Missions and in his speeches has derided their qualifications, claiming that they could not have been much good inasmuch as they trained a defeated army, namely the Army of Batista. He has publicly stated that he was in favor of asking for a military mission from Venezuela to train Cuba's forces. In a very intemperate remark made on January 15, 1959, he stated that if United States Marines were sent to Cuba, "200,000 gringos will die." He later claimed that he made this statement to persons whom he thought were friends and that it was not for publication. Ernesto "Che" Guevara is reportedly anti-American in his sentiments. The Castro followers continue to allege that the United States sent arms and munitions to the Batista forces to kill fellow Cubans.

On January 16, 1959, it was reported in the press that Fidel Castro planned to visit the United States in the near future to present Cuba's case to the people of the United States.

On January 20, 1959, it was reported that Fidel Castro and [REDACTED] the Cuban News Reporters Association, had invited 350 newsmen and commentators from the United States and Latin America and critics within the United States Congress to attend a trial and witness a giant rally in Havana, which was scheduled for January 21, 1959. Representative Adam Clayton Powell of New York reportedly arrived in Cuba on January 20, 1959, at his own expense to see what was happening there. Representative [REDACTED] of Oregon reportedly accepted the invitation but indicated he would not attend the trials. It was indicated [REDACTED] had come to Cuba to urge Castro and the Provisional President not to underestimate the help their Government could expect from the United States. [REDACTED] has been reported as a vigorous advocate of United States cooperation with the new Castro Government. Both Powell and [REDACTED] were reported by the press on January 21, 1959, as having attended the rally.

b7c

On January 22, 1959, it was reported that the "war crimes" trials of the defeated foes of Castro were endorsed by the cheers of more than 500,000 Cubans at the above-mentioned rally. Castro, after repeatedly denouncing United States Congressmen and newsmen who had criticized Cuba's mass executions, reportedly told the meeting that the number of war criminals his men expected to kill amounted to only about one for every 1,000 persons killed by American A-bombs in Japan. This remark drew a wild ovation from the crowd. Castro also called for the return of the "war criminals" who fled Cuba. Our Legal Attache in Havana on January 21, 1959,

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advised he was confidentially informed that Embassy officials who were invited to attend the rally had informed Cuban officials they hoped no inflammatory anti-American remarks would be made.

#### 7. Cuban Sentiment Toward Fidel Castro

Fidel Castro has been heralded as Cuba's white hope and at the moment is the idol of the crowds. The old-line Cuban politicians have not come to the forefront to voice any disappointment with the policy expounded by Castro. Castro has given the impression in his public statements that he is able to sway the people. His press conferences reportedly go on for hours and it is the feeling of some that he talks too much.

#### 8. Criminal Activities in Cuba

As a result of the downfall of the Batista Government, there has been an exodus of gamblers from Havana. However, Santo Trafficante; [REDACTED] and Charles Tourine still remain on the Havana scene for the purpose of seeing whether they can deal with the new Government concerning the resumption of gambling operations in Havana.

b7C

On January 1, 1959, when law and order were nonexistent in Havana, mobs of people sacked and destroyed the gambling casinos in the Hotels Plaza, Deauville, and Sevilla Biltmore. Minor damage was done to the Sans Souci gambling casino. The large casinos managed to stave off any mob action by having their employees, many of whom were members of the July 26 Movement, block the entry of such mobs and discourage them from doing damage to the larger casinos. All casinos are closed. The most recent statement of Fidel Castro indicates that gambling will be permitted in the larger hotels, such as the Riviera, Hilton, and Nacional, as well as in the Sans Souci and Tropicana night clubs. Castro has indicated that the casino profits will be divided as follows:

40% for Cuban charity  
30% for tourist promotion  
30% for casino operators

It has been reported that American gamblers are bringing pressure to bear on the Government, both through their own personal contacts as well as through the casino employees, in an effort to obtain permission to reopen and at the same time receive a reasonable profit on their investments.

With the fall of the Batista Government all police tie-ups with organized crime ceased. Casino operators have indicated that it would be a relief to them to operate their casinos without continual "shake-downs" by various police officials. They have reportedly stated that they would be willing to pay a higher percentage of their profits to the Cuban Government provided the Government can ensure there will be no "shake-downs."

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9. Information provided by [REDACTED] b7C/D

[REDACTED] in Cuba under Batista regime. He was a contact of the Legal Attache. He was interviewed on January 16, 1959, in Miami where he had arrived two or three days previously. He is living at [REDACTED] with his wife, son and brother. He explained he succeeded in escaping from Havana [REDACTED] on day Batista regime fell, January 1, 1959. He entered the U.S. at New Orleans under the name of [REDACTED] b7C/D

[REDACTED] said so far as he knows his name is not on the list of war criminals wanted by Castro regime. b7C/D

During the interview on January 16, 1959, [REDACTED] said that Ernesto (Che) Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos, leaders under Castro, are considered by BRAC as principal communists in the July 26 Movement. [REDACTED] said Guevara seized BRAC records immediately upon entering Havana. b7C/D

Regarding old Batista regime, [REDACTED] said he had become fed up before its fall and had planned to resign and take up residence in the U.S. He said BRAC had been limited by Batista regime to operating account of \$15,000 monthly for its 85 employees and [REDACTED] was not invited to official government functions. He claimed that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were very powerful in Batista regime and [REDACTED] with a military clique controlled Batista. [REDACTED] placed one of his sons as [REDACTED] Batista in order to maintain watch on him. There was definite split and lack of confidence between enlisted men and officers with enlisted men regarding Batista as their leader and officers responsive to [REDACTED]. Army officers practiced extensive graft and corruption at expense of enlisted men and government. b7C/D

[REDACTED] said Fidel Castro has record of being anti-U.S. dating from time of Bogota (Colombia) conference when anti-U.S. riots took place with Castro b7C/D

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participating. [redacted] alleges that Castro claims of killing and torture of 20,000 rebels by Batista regime are greatly exaggerated. He estimates not more than 200 actual atrocities committed by government since Castro returned to Cuba in 1956. He received information in December, 1958, indicating 3,000 government casualties and approximately 5,000 rebel casualties during revolution. He estimates not more than 10,000 killed on both sides. b7C/D

His [redacted] was present at Camp Colombia on New Years Eve, as was Batista and a group of government officials. [redacted] said that according to [redacted] and other persons present at that time Batista was personally advised by a Cuban Army general that if government was to continue fighting rebels in the Oriente and Las Villas Provinces, they needed certain specific quantities of bombs, rockets, planes and other military equipment. Batista replied that the government did not possess these materials in such quantities and could not get them soon. The Cuban Army general [redacted] who had been called [redacted] in December in a last gasp effort) and other military officials then advised Batista to immediately depart Cuba and leave the government in the hands of military junta. Batista then made immediate decision to depart Cuba and announced to those in attendance at banquet as his guests that he was leaving Cuba at once and they should prepare to depart within the hour on planes which would be ready at Camp Colombia. [redacted] received his notification of this decision from [redacted] b7C/D

[redacted] was again interviewed on January 25, 1959, after being previously unavailable and said he expects to provide the Bureau a complete report by January 27, 1959. He said he possesses no information indicating Batista adherents in the U.S. formulating any organized opposition to the new government. He said Batista adherents are concerned only with remaining in the U.S. He possessed no evidence concerning plans that Castro supporters are making for retaliation against Batista adherents in the U.S. He reported that his [redacted] also in Miami, heard Havana radio broadcast three or four days previously to effect. b7C/D

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that six men from staff of Fidel Castro have departed Cuba to kidnap and bring back to Cuba some prominent alleged killers of Batista regime. He believes identity of one member of this group named in broadcast but does not know identity now. Destination of group is unknown to [REDACTED]. In this regard during January 16, 1959, interview [REDACTED] referred briefly to suspicion that [REDACTED] had made one effort to liquidate [REDACTED]. We instructed Miami on January 27, 1959, to thoroughly explore this in reinterview with [REDACTED] and to identify [REDACTED] b7C

Miami teletype of January 25, 1959, indicated that [REDACTED] complete report would be translated upon receipt and furnished the Bureau as soon as possible. b7C

The information provided by [REDACTED] was furnished the Department, Department of State, [REDACTED] and the military agencies by letters dated January 27 and January 28, 1959. b7C b2

B. Information Provided by [REDACTED]

See Appendix A for further details of information furnished [REDACTED] however, highlights are being summarized here.

[REDACTED], who had been providing information to our New York Office voluntarily with regard to other matters, contacted us on January 1, 1959, following the downfall of Batista. Since that time she has provided considerable information concerning the Cuban situation as set forth hereinafter.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] reliable and that in the past she has worked with [REDACTED] the Office of (S) Special Investigations, Department of the Air Force and U. S. Customs.

[REDACTED] claims to be personally acquainted with Generalissimo Trujillo of the Dominican Republic and former President Batista and to have contacts with Senators Wayne B. Morse and Herbert Humphrey.

In November, 1958, [REDACTED] was contacted [REDACTED] the July 26 Movement in the United States, who requested her advice on various problems facing the Movement. She has also been in constant contact with other pro-Castro individuals in the United States. On January 18, 1959, she left the United States to go to Havana at the request of [REDACTED] an official in the Cuban Government, to exert her influence in stopping the executions in Cuba and to try to set up a Nuremberg trial system.



1. Anti-Cuban Feeling vs. Former U. S. Ambassador to Cuba

On January 3, 1959, [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] the July 26 Movement, had convinced the Movement on declaring U. S. Ambassador Earl E. T. Smith persona non grata because of his having engaged in business ventures with Batista. On January 4, 1959, she advised the spirit of anti-Americanism was very strong in Havana, not against the American Government as such, but against the Department of State and Ambassador Smith in particular. It is noted Ambassador Smith's resignation was announced on January 10, 1959, and that he returned to the United States on January 20, 1959. On January 16, 1959, [REDACTED] advised that the Cuban Government was most pleased with the appointment of Philip W. Bonsal as U. S. Ambassador to Cuba. b7C b7C

2. Cuban Government Reaction to Soviet Aid and to Communism

On January 4, 1959, [REDACTED] advised the Russian Government was making unusual overtures and putting pressure on the rebel government to have Russia recognized and diplomatic relations established. She advised the Russian Government through the Governments of Costa Rica and Venezuela had offered unlimited funds to the new government but it was reluctant to accept the offer. On January 19, 1959, [REDACTED] advised the Cuban Government will not recognize Russia but it is deeply concerned over the communist threat in Cuba. b7C

3. Removal of U. S. Military Missions in Cuba

On January 5, 1959, [REDACTED] advised the new government had come into possession of correspondence from various United States military missions which contained advice to the Batista Government. She advised the Cubans wanted the recall of all individuals assigned to U. S. military missions in Cuba, who assisted the Batista Government. On January 19, 1959, [REDACTED] advised the Cuban Government was bitter toward U. S. military missions and if not recalled soon they would be asked to leave. b7C

4. Executions by Castro in Cuba

On January 15, 1959, [redacted] advised she learned from [redacted] whose correct name is [redacted] the Havana Sugar Institute, that the entire Cuban cabinet was against Castro's orders dealing with executions of Batista followers. She was advised [redacted] the Cuban Government was in desperate need of United States help. She stated she was attempting to influence the Castro Government to halt these executions. b7C

On January 16, 1959, [redacted] advised she received a call from [redacted] in Cuba who advised the Cuban cabinet favored her recommendation to set up a Nuremberg trial system. b7C

[redacted] advised she was requested to come to Havana to exert her influence in stopping the executions and that funds were furnished her for this purpose. She stated on the same date she discussed this matter with [redacted] Department of State, who agreed she should go to Cuba. It is noted [redacted] left New York City for Havana on January 18, 1959. b7C

On January 19, 1959, [redacted] calling from Cuba, advised the military trials had been held up and when resumed would be open to the public and the defendants would have legal counsel. On January 20, 1959, [redacted] advised Fidel Castro was desirous of continuing the trials and acting as prosecutor but the government was opposed. b7C

5. Assistance Requested by Cuban Government

On January 19, 1959, [redacted] advised she had conferred with various Cuban Government officials in Havana but had not been in contact with the U. S. Embassy. She advised the situation in Cuba was chaotic and the Cuban Government desperately needed the assistance and guidance of the United States. b7C

[redacted] advised the Cuban Government "desires the U.S. to make a higher reallocation of sugar" and that if Ambassador Bonsal, on arrival in Cuba, would offer temporary financial aid to the b7C

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new government it would greatly improve United States - Cuba relations. She advised the Cubans are desperately in need of technical assistance in the fields of education and agriculture.

6. July 26 Movement

On January 2, 1959, [REDACTED] advised the July 26 Movement in the United States had received strict orders from Fidel Castro's headquarters in Cuba stating he wanted the turn-over of the government to be carried out in a peaceful manner and those creating disturbances would be dealt with accordingly. b7C

On January 7, 1959, [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] the July 26 Movement in the United States, felt Dr. Manuel Urrutia, Provisional President of Cuba, was not strong enough to cope with the situation in Cuba. He advised Mrs. Taaffe that Castro was the real power in Cuba. He advised the July 26 Movement had no fear of communists in the new Cuban cabinet but was concerned about allegations of communism in the Movement. He claimed that although the Movement accepted manpower from the communists during the revolt the Movement had not been influenced politically by the communists and that this element would be eliminated from the Movement. b7C

7. Political Interest in Appointment of Ambassador to Cuba

On January 4, 1959, [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] a well-known attorney from Florida, who claimed to be a personal friend of Vice President Nixon, conferred with State Department representatives on that date in an effort to get Cuban Ambassador Smith to submit his resignation. She advised that [REDACTED] had been in contact with Senators Humphrey and Morse and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, that [REDACTED] was acceptable to both the Republicans and Democrats but Mrs. Roosevelt had withheld comment. She advised the Cubans desired [REDACTED] as the new U. S. Ambassador to Cuba. b7C

The following information furnished by [REDACTED] on January 9, 1959, has not been disseminated: [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] had abandoned the idea of becoming Ambassador to Cuba. [REDACTED] informed her he was informed by the Republican Party to give up the idea of becoming Ambassador as there was too much political pressure behind U.S. Ambassador Smith. b7C

[REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] the Republican Party in Miami determined that Democratic [REDACTED] an attorney from South Miami, an individual named [REDACTED] and one [REDACTED] both from Miami, had investments in Cuba and profits were too lucrative to have Smith replaced as Ambassador. b7C

[REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] the Republican Party in Florida determined [REDACTED] was at first sympathetic toward the revolutionary movement but was induced to visit Cuba and was given shares and interests in business there for lending his name, visiting Cuba and talking to former President Batista. [REDACTED] advised that the business interests included mining, cement plants and the sugar industry. b7C

[REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] fronted for these investments and that [REDACTED] fronted for the Italian money and was influential at the Presidential Palace in business ventures between Ambassador Smith and former President Batista. b7C

[REDACTED] cautioned [REDACTED] to handle this information carefully as he had also learned [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] who was in the U.S. Navy with Vice President Nixon and [REDACTED] during World War II. [REDACTED] stated he had also learned that Vice President Nixon was also in on the investments in Cuba and that all individuals had benefitted financially. [REDACTED] stated when the Vice President visits Florida, he stays at [REDACTED] home. b7C

[REDACTED] requested that this information not be disseminated outside the Bureau. No commitment was made to her in this regard. This information b7C

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was received on the night of January 9, 1959; Smith's resignation as Ambassador was announced on the morning of January 10, 1959; and as this resolved the situation, no dissemination was made of this information.

The preceding information was disseminated to the Department of State promptly as received and portions of the information of interest to other agencies were disseminated promptly to such agencies, except as stated in item Number 7 above with regard to the information obtained from [REDACTED] on January 9, 1959. b7C

8. Information Furnished by [REDACTED] Since Her Return to the U. S. from Cuba on January 24, 1959 b7C

On January 26, 1959, [REDACTED], who re-entered the U. S. at Miami, Florida, from Cuba on January 24, 1959, and returned to New York City on January 25, 1959, advised that the July 26 Movement had several tons of TNT stored in the Miami area and that the new Cuban Government desired to obtain the TNT. She stated she had contacted a Departmental attorney in Miami concerning this matter and he referred her to U. S. Customs. She advised she expected a call from Cuba on January 26, 1959, concerning this matter. The above information was furnished to the Department of State, U. S. Customs, [REDACTED] Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force and the Internal Security Division of the Department on January 27, 1959. b2

[REDACTED] furnished the following additional information to the New York Office on January 26 and 27, 1959, concerning the Cuban situation. She met Camilo Cienfuegos on January 21, 1959, and she advised that Cienfuegos and others have taken steps to ease Ernesto "Che" Guevara out of the military. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] of the new Cuban Government, is the only individual who will stand up to Castro and that [REDACTED] will resign his post unless Castro listens to reason. According to [REDACTED] Dr. Manuel Urrutia is a complete "bust" as President. She advised that Castro does not know the true situation concerning the weaknesses of President Urrutia and others fear to tell Castro as Castro would seize the presidency if he knew the truth concerning Urrutia. [REDACTED] advised that Urrutia may be replaced as President by the middle or end of February, 1959, and that Castro is the absolute power in Cuba today. b7C

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[redacted] stated that there is no possibility of July 26 Movement members kidnaping former Batista officials in the United States since the members are strictly disciplined by Castro. However, the possibility does exist that members of the Directorio Revolucionario (an anti-Batista organization) and the Authentic Party (a Cuban political party) might attempt a kidnaping in order to embarrass the new Cuban Government. b7C

[redacted] advised that a number of Americans were seeking to make business connections in Cuba and were relating how they were connected politically and were stating that they had connections in the White House.

The above information was disseminated on January 28, 1959, to the Department of State, [redacted] b2  
[redacted] the military agencies, and the Internal Security Division of the Department of Justice.

On January 27, 1959, [redacted] advised that [redacted] informed her on January 25, 1959, the primary problem in Cuba is labor. According to [redacted] the communist element in Cuba seized the labor offices after the overthrow of the Batista Government, immediately started organizing workers in the sugar industry and were now threatening a general strike. [redacted] stated [redacted] informed her on January 27, 1959, that the Cuban cabinet is aware of the communist threat to take over labor in Cuba and the threat will be crushed. [redacted] stated the communist labor leaders have been rounded up and all cabinet ministers are ousting communists in their departments. b7C  
[redacted] informed [redacted] Castro had been advised of the communist danger and Castro intended to return to Havana on January 27, 1959, to appeal to Cuban workers to get the sugar crop exported. [redacted] stated that if the communists continue to disrupt labor the new government will dissolve the labor unions.

On January 27, 1959, [redacted] stated the Cuban Government was still anxious to obtain the TNT and certain military arms which are stored in the United States belonging to the July 26 Movement. She stated she had contacted General Edward S. Greenbaum in the matter and Greenbaum indicated he would attempt to contact Secretary of State John Foster Dulles or b7C

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someone at the White House. Greenbaum is a former army officer who has been connected with the law firm of Greenbaum, Wolff and Ernst since 1915 and in 1933 he was special assistant to the Attorney General.

[redacted] stated [redacted] instructed her to tell Greenbaum to hold his inquiry of the White House in abeyance until the Cuban Government is able to make other efforts to obtain this material in Miami as they did not want to be indebted in any way. [redacted] stated she had been in contact on January 27, 1959, with Mr. Robert Kennedy, Chief Counsel, U.S. Senate Select Committee to Investigate Improper Activities in Labor-Management Relations, and discussed with him the desire of the July 26 Movement to obtain the TNT and arms in the Miami area. [redacted] advised Kennedy indicated he would contact U.S. Customs in the matter if [redacted] desired him to do so but that she informed him to take no action until she had heard from [redacted] b7C

[redacted] advised on January 27, 1959, that she had been unable to keep an appointment with Edward R. Murrow of the Columbia Broadcasting System who wanted to discuss with her a "Person to Person" broadcast from Cuba involving Cuban Government officials. b7C

The above information, received from [redacted] on January 27, 1959, was disseminated on January 28, 1959, to the State Department, [redacted] Customs, military agencies and Internal Security Division of the Department. b7C b2

On January 27, 1959, [redacted] advised she had received a call from Marvin Segal, Departmental attorney, Special Anti-Racketeering Group, New York City, who informed her he had made arrangements to go to Cuba to review all files of Cuban military intelligence and files pertaining to the American gambling syndicate in Cuba in response to the offer [redacted] the Sugar Institute in Havana, which offer had been made through [redacted] Segal stated he would take with him two Immigration and Naturalization Service representatives. [redacted] advised she had suggested that Segal also take with him Departmental Attorney b7C

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Joseph Manners of Miami and a representative of the FBI. She stated Segal informed her the FBI was not interested in the American gamblers and racketeers in Cuba. [redacted] stated that if Joseph Manners was not allowed to accompany Segal she would not make any arrangements for Segal and under no circumstances would she make arrangements for Immigration and Naturalization Service representatives to accompany Segal to Cuba because Cuban Government officials were extremely provoked over mistreatment they received from U.S. Customs and Immigration and Naturalization Service in Miami, Florida, when they were returning to Cuba on January 2, 1959. [redacted] stated she would be able to make arrangements through [redacted] for an FBI representative to have access to and review all files pertaining to Americans. She advised that if Segal takes Joseph Manners with him to Cuba she will accompany them to Havana to make proper introductions for them with the Cuban officials with whom they must work. No commitment was made by the New York Office regarding the above matter relating to the FBI. b7c

The above information, received from [redacted] on January 27, 1959 concerning Departmental Attorney Segal's trip to Cuba, was disseminated to Internal Security Division and Criminal Division and to Immigration and Naturalization Service on January 28, 1959. b7c

*This dissemination was not made but was handled telephonically by Assistant Director Rosen. See Serials 109-480-1678, 1679*



I. C. COMMUNIST RAMIFICATIONS IN THE CASTRO MOVEMENT

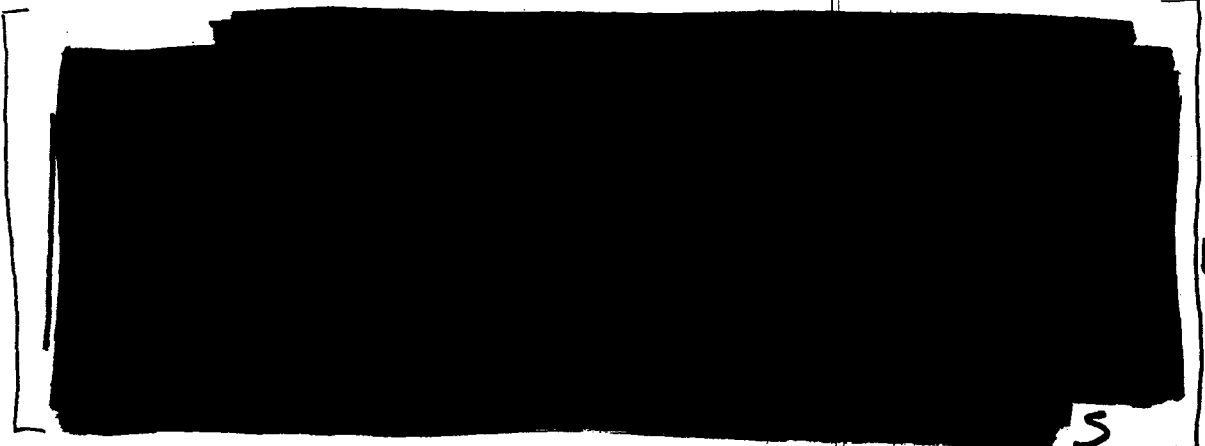
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C. Communist Ramifications in the Castro Movement

An analysis of events subsequent to the collapse of Batista and the rise of Castro points to the strong possibility that there is a measurable communist influence in the new Cuban Government as typified by allegations which have been made regarding some of Castro's supporters. While undoubtedly many of the allegations may have been fostered and spread by Batista and his henchmen to cast a communist label on his opposition for political motives, there can be no minimizing of the fact that information available strongly hints at a sympathetic attitude towards communism by the present day Cuban Government. This is strengthened by the fact that since the overthrow of Batista, the Communist Party newspaper has been allowed to resume publication and the Party itself is operating openly. Similarly, since Castro has taken over in Cuba, some of his chief lieutenants there have been determined to have, at the minimum, communist leanings. It is to be noted that the extent of communist sympathy or leaning of these persons has become more apparent since January 1, 1959, the date of the overthrow of Batista, than before that date and has emerged more clearly as a result of checks of our files on Castro leaders who have not previously come to light as wielding strong influence in the Cuban rebellion.

1. Discussion With Other Agencies of Communist Influence in Castro Movement



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[REDACTED] (S)

b1

Also, during this December 16, 1958, meeting of the USIB a discussion was had concerning developments in Cuba since mid-November, 1958, and during this discussion no evidence was presented or indication made that Castro was receiving any communist support.

[REDACTED] (S)

b1

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2. Allegations of Communist Connections of  
Castro Supporters

Advanced copy of Fulton Lewis Jr.'s "Washington report" for January 16, 1959, reported there had been a tendency to write off the communist connections of Fidel Castro because Batista's agents were the original disseminators of the charge. The release stated that the police dossiers in Bogota, Colombia, lists Fidel Castro as a ring leader in the bloody uprisings of 1948 at the time of the Pan American Conference, staged by the "Reds." After the revolt, the police searched the room shared by Castro and another revolutionary, both of whom were attending a Colombian student conference as representatives of the communist-controlled International Students' Union. According to the release, a press correspondent there wrote that an examination of correspondence in the room reflected that Castro and his companion belonged to the Communist Party.

The release reported that Castro's [REDACTED] had been identified repeatedly as a dues-paying member of the Communist Party and that Castro's [REDACTED] had been arrested in Mexico two years ago, together with [REDACTED] and twenty other hard-core followers for fomenting a revolution against a friendly nation. [REDACTED] reportedly was a member of the "Cuban Young Communist Party." b7C

According to the release, Fidel Castro's [REDACTED] several years ago to attend a Soviet youth conference and Ernesto "Che" Guevara, Castro's personnel chief, was identified as a member of the Communist Russo-Mexican Institute for Cultural Relations and active in the Guatemalan Government of communist dictator Jacobo Arbenz. b7C

A possible source of Lewis's release is an untitled newspaper article which appeared in the "Havana Post" newspaper on December 17, 1957. This article stated the communists openly favored the elimination of Dominican leader Trujillo and President Batista of Cuba by Fidel Castro's rebel movement. It reported that Castro and his staff received cash, arms and ammunition from the Soviet Union; had strong communist affiliations; and named the individuals referred to by Lewis and described b7C

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their positions and communist activities in a similar manner. This newspaper article indicated the data contained therein had been previously published in the December, 1957, issue of the "Intelligence Digest," a British publication edited by Kenneth de Courcy.

[REDACTED] 61

[REDACTED] SK

[REDACTED] (S)

Our files reflect the following information concerning the individuals mentioned by Fulton Lewis Jr., as well as other individuals closely associated with Fidel Castro:

a. Fidel Castro

Fidel Castro reportedly was closely associated with communists during his student days, and was present in Bogota, Colombia, in April, 1948, when the outbreaks of riots occurred during the communist-inspired student congress. According to a news item dated April 19, 1948, at Bogota, correspondence found in his effects in a hotel room indicated he was a member of the Cuban Communist Party. Following the uprising in Puerto Rico in September and November, 1950, Castro reportedly headed a committee sponsored by the communists to maintain the fight for independence for Puerto Rico. The Cuban Government stated through a censored Cuban press that members of the Cuban Communist Party had been involved in the July 26, 1953, attempt to overthrow the Cuban Government under the leadership of Fidel Castro. He visited the United States from October to December, 1955, and was interviewed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). He told INS he had never been a member of any organization affiliated with the Communist Party. No evidence of Communist Party activity or association on the part of Castro was developed during his visit to the United States. Other United States Government agencies have furnished information received

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from their respective sources alleging that ~~Fidel Castro~~ has been: A member of a communist group, a communist sympathizer and an aspirant to becoming a Marxist leader in Cuba. Information was also received that ~~Castro's movement~~ collaborated very closely with the Cuban Communist Youth Organization in Camaguey Province and received support from the Cuban Communist Party. Many allegations linking ~~Castro~~ with communism have emanated from the Cuban Government. ONI advised the Cuban Government during Batista's reign was inclined to refer to all rebel sympathizers as communists. Representative statements attributed to the Cuban Government by other United States Government agencies are: ~~Castro~~ is a communist sympathizer with communist ideals; ~~Castro~~ is either a communist or the nearest thing to it; and ~~Castro's movement~~ is being, or is possibly completely, infiltrated by the Cuban Communist Party. [REDACTED] b7C

[REDACTED] contains a biography of ~~Fidel Castro~~. (For detailed information concerning ~~Fidel Castro~~ and the dissemination thereof see page B-1 of Appendix B.) b1

b. [REDACTED] b7C

We have received information from other United States Government agencies concerning [REDACTED] as follows: [REDACTED] b7C

[REDACTED] in 1953, and visited other Iron Curtain countries in that year; he associated with "leftists" and communists while attending school in Havana, Cuba; and he evidenced bitter anti-United States sentiments and authored an order calling for the capture of all Americans in the area under his command.

Other United States Government agencies also advised that [REDACTED] declined aid from Cuban communists, and the Batista Government of Cuba prepared false reports describing him as a communist. State Department furnished data [REDACTED] b7C